

### III THE COMMON CAUSE

4. The reference here is undoubtedly to "A. W. Farmer," the pseudonym of the Reverend Samuel Seabury of Westchester County, New York. The publication in question could be either *Free Thoughts on the Proceedings of the Continental Congress . . .* (New York, 1774) or *The Congress Canvassed . . .* (New York, 1774).

## 13 Governor William Franklin to Lord Dartmouth

[*NJA*, 10:503-4.]

William Franklin, like most royal governors, faced the dilemma of attempting to serve two masters during the imperial crises. On the one hand he was charged with the maintenance of law and order and preserving the authority of the mother country; on the other, he sincerely wished to further the interests of New Jersey and personally disliked many of the measures instituted by Britain after 1763. Above all Franklin and his cohorts felt a growing isolation and inability to act. Without a police force and unable to utilize the militia (the militia was composed of protesters), he could only keep up a facade of authority and forward intelligence to his superiors.

Perth Amboy Decr. 6th 1774

My Lord,

I had the Honor, on the 29th. of Octr. to write your Lordship a few Lines from New York, enclosing a Pamphlet containing Extracts from the Votes and Proceedings of the Continental Congress held at Philadelphia; since which I have been honoured with your Lordships Dispatch of the 7th. of September . . . .

Altho' the Proceedings of the Congress are not altogether satisfactory to many of the Inhabitants of the Colonies, yet there seems at present little Reason to doubt but that the Terms of Association will be generally carried into Execution, even by those who dislike Parts of it. But few have the Courage to declare their Disapprobation publicly, as they well know, if they do not conform, they are in Danger of becoming Objects of popular Resentment, from which it is not in the Power of Government here to protect them. Indeed the Officers of Government in all the Colonies (except at Boston)<sup>1</sup> have but little or no Protection for themselves.

It must afford every good Subject Pleasure, should the Result of their Proceedings be found (as your Lordship wishes) "such as not to cut off all Hope of that Union with the Mother Country which is so essential to the Happiness of both." But it seems apprehended by many sensible and moderate Men here, that it will be the Opinion of the Mother Country that the Congress has left her no other alternative than either to consent to what must appear humiliating in the Eyes of all

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Europe, or to compel Obedience to her Laws by a Military Force. The Necessity for either it was hoped, by all good Men, that the Congress would have prevented, by framing and proposing some Plan of Constitutional Union, which, though it might not have been deemed perfect, or such as the Mother Country could altogether have acquiesced in, yet might have served as a Foundation for an amicable Settlement of our unhappy Differences. But, tho' a Plan for that Purpose was proposed by a Member of the Congress, and even entered on their Minutes, with an Order referring it to further Consideration, yet they not only refused to resume the Consideration of it, but directed both the Plan and Order to be erased from their Minutes, so that no Vestige of it might appear there.<sup>2</sup> I have, however, obtained a Copy of it, which I send enclosed to your Lordship, as I am told it has been much handed about at New York, and greatly approved of by some of the most sensible Men in that City.

I have the Honour to be, with the greatest Respect & Regard,  
My Lord, Your Lordship's most obedient & most humble Servant  
WM. FRANKLIN

1. Franklin is referring to the presence of the British army at Boston; actually the military afforded scant protection to the Massachusetts government since the troops could not be used to suppress civil disorders without the approval of the radical-dominated legislature.

2. Joseph Galloway's "Plan of a Proposed Union between Great Britain and the Colonies" was defeated on September 28 when a motion to defer consideration of the proposal passed by a vote of six colonies to five. Outraged first by the defeat of his plan and then by its omission from the congressional journals, Galloway, a prominent Pennsylvania lawyer and a close personal friend of Governor Franklin, published his scheme for colonial governance in pamphlet form for popular distribution.

### 14 The Cumberland County Committee Proceedings on the Greenwich Tea Party

[*Dunlap's Pennsylvania Packet; or, the General Advertiser*, January 9, 1775.]

New Jersey was the scene of several "tea parties" in 1774. In January and again in June students of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) committed quantities of the baneful leaf, everywhere a symbol of British oppression, to bonfires. But the most famous conflagration occurred in the small Cumberland County village of Greenwich. In mid-December Captain Allen's brig