

VII FROM COLONY TO STATE

6. The battle of Pharsalus in 48 B. C. where Caesar defeated Pompey.

7. The philosopher's stone was an imaginary substance thought to transform base metals into gold.

8. This statement suggests that the document is a copy of a speech delivered before some deliberative body, but Boudinot was not a member of either the Provincial or the Continental Congress at the time. The manuscript is in Boudinot's hand and expresses his views on independence, but the purpose and origin of the piece are unknown.

4 The Provincial Congress Orders the Arrest of Governor William Franklin

[*PCCS Minutes*, pp. 454-58.]

Following his near arrest in January 1776, Governor William Franklin voluntarily remained in seclusion at his home in Perth Amboy for fear of engendering the wrath of the rebels. But the attempt of the Continental Congress to overthrow imperial authority in America through its famous resolve of May 15 prompted Franklin to make a last-ditch effort to prevent the demise of royal government in New Jersey. Certain that the upcoming Provincial Congress would implement the continental directive, Franklin on May 30 summoned the General Assembly to convene in Perth Amboy on June 20 to discuss "Matters of great Importance." The rebels could not permit a confrontation between the royal and popular assemblies and thus ordered Franklin taken into custody. When Franklin refused to sign the parole tendered by Colonel Nathaniel Heard on June 17, he was interrogated by the Provincial Congress and subsequently ordered imprisoned in Connecticut by the Continental Congress. (see Sec. VIII, Doc. 7). Eventually exchanged, he served as president of the Associated Board of Loyalists in New York City before entering permanent exile in England.

June 14-15, 1776¹

1. Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Congress, the Proclamation of William Franklin, Esquire, late Governor of New Jersey, bearing date on the thirtieth day of May last in the name of the King of Great Britain, appointing a meeting of the General Assembly, to be held on the twentieth day of this instant June, ought not to be obeyed.

2. Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Congress, the said William Franklin, Esquire, by such proclamation, has acted in direct contempt and violation of the resolve of the Continental Congress of the fifteenth day of May last.

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3. Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Congress, the said William Franklin, Esquire, has discovered himself to be an enemy to the liberties of this country; and that measures ought to be immediately taken for securing the person of the said William Franklin, Esquire.

4. Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Congress, all payments of money on account of salary, or otherwise, to the said William Franklin, Esquire, as Governor, ought from henceforth to cease; and that the Treasurers of this Province shall account for the moneys in their hands to this Congress, or to the future Legislature of this Colony.

Resolved, That the following order do issue to Colonel Nathaniel Heard,² of the first battalion of Middlesex County:

The Provincial Congress of New Jersey, reposing great confidence in your zeal and prudence, have thought fit to entrust to your care the execution of the enclosed resolves. It is the desire of Congress that this necessary business be conducted with all the delicacy and tenderness which the nature of the business can possibly admit. For this end you will find among the papers the form of a written parole, in which there is left a blank space for you to fill up, at the choice of Mr. Franklin, with the name of Princeton, Bordentown, or his own farm at Rancocus. When he shall have signed the parole, the Congress will rely upon his honour for the faithful performance of his engagements; but should he refuse to sign the parole, you are desired to put him under strong guard, and keep him in close custody, until the further order of this Congress. Whatever expense may be necessary for this service will be cheerfully defrayed by the Congress. We refer to your discretion what means to use for that purpose; and you have full power and authority to take to your aid whatever force you may require.

1. The first resolution carried on Friday afternoon, June 14; the other three were passed the following day. None of the resolutions was adopted unanimously, but all were voted by comfortable margins: 38-11, 41-10, 42-10, and 47-3 respectively. The roll calls are deleted from the resolutions.

2. Nathaniel Heard (ca. 1730-1792), wealthy Woodbridge landowner and entrepreneur, was as zealous as a military officer as he had been as a local committeeman. It was Heard who had surrounded William Franklin's home in January 1776 in a premature attempt to arrest the governor. In carrying out his orders six months later, Heard unnecessarily insulted and harassed Franklin.

5 The Instructions for the New Jersey Delegates in the Continental Congress to Vote for Independence

[PCCS Minutes, p. 473.]