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EDITED BY

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## THE MEETING OF THE MERCHANTS,

*Held in Williamsburg, in 1770.*

[We find the following paper in the Virginia Gazette of June 28th, 1770, from which we copied the Account of the Association formed in Williamsburg, on Friday, the 22nd of said month, in our last number; and readily submit it to our readers, as it may serve to give them some idea of the Merchants, and the state of trade in our Colony, at that period.

We append also, from the same journal, an Address to the Merchants and Traders in Virginia, by an author who does not subscribe his name, but appears to write with authority; and whose communication furnishes us with another sample of the spirit and temper of the times.]

**A**T a meeting of the MERCHANTS, at the house of Mr. *Anthony Hay* (present Mr. ANDREW SPROWLE, Chairman to the Trade, and other members.)

RESOLVED, that a committee be appointed to take under their consideration *the general state of the trade of this colony*, and that it be composed of the following Gentlemen:

For <i>Norfolk</i> and <i>Princess Anne</i> .	David Ross.
The Chairman.	Jerman Baker.
Mess. Neill Jameson.	<i>Hanover town</i> .
John Taylor.	Mess. John Johnson.
William Aitchison.	John Smith.
John Lawrence.	Hardin Burnley, jun.
John Hutchings.	<i>Newcastle</i> .
Anthony Walke.	Mess. David Cochran.
George Logan.	Samuel Pearson.
Matthew Phripp.	<i>Aylett's</i> .
John Greenwood.	Mr. Archibald Govan.
Archibald Campbell.	<i>Williamsburg</i> .
Paul Loyall.	Mess. John Prentis.
<i>Portsmouth</i> .	Thomas Hornsby.
Mess. Robert Shedden.	William Holt.
Humphrey Roberts.	James Cocke.
Thomas Hepburn.	Haldenby Dixon.
James Marsden.	Robert Miller.

- Hugh M'Mekin.**  
*Suffolk.*  
Mess. Josiah Granbery.  
John Driver.  
Thomas Gilchrist.  
John Hamilton.  
Wills Cooper.
- Hampton.*  
Mess. Jacob Wray.  
James Balfour.
- Nansemond.*  
Mess. Joseph Scott.  
Archibald Buchanan.  
Anthony Warwick.
- Smithfield.*  
Mess. George Purdie.  
James Hunter.  
George Blair.
- Southampton.*  
Mr. Thomas Williamson.
- Cobbam.*  
Mess. James Baird.  
John Hay.  
Nicholas Falcon.
- Cabin Point.*  
Mess. James Belsches.  
William Henderson.  
Walter Peter.  
Adam Fleming.
- Prince George.*  
Mr. George Noble,  
*Blandford.*  
Mess. Patrick Ramsay.  
Charles Duncan.  
John Bland.
- Petersburg.*  
Mess. Roger Atkinson.  
Neill Buchanan, sen.  
John Tabb.  
Theopilus Field.  
Neill Buchanan, jun.  
Edward Brisbane.  
Henry Lohead.  
Richard Booker.
- Osborne's.*  
Mess. John Fisher.  
Daniel M'Callum.
- John Greenhow.**  
*York.*  
Mess. David Jameson.  
William Stevenson.
- Urbanna.*  
Mr. James Mills.  
*Hobb's Hole.*  
Mess. Archibald Ritchie.  
William Woddrop.  
Archibald M'Call.  
William Snodgrass.
- Leeds town.*  
Mess. Thomas Jett.  
Thomas Hodge.
- Port Royal.*  
Mess. James Bowie.  
Andrew Leckie.  
James Dunlop.
- Fredericksburg.*  
Mess. Fielding Lewis.  
Charles Dick.  
James Hunter.  
Charles Yates.  
George Mitchell.  
John Glassell.  
Neil M'Coull.
- Falmouth.*  
Mess. William Allison.  
James Robinson.
- Eastern Shore.*  
Mess. William Ronald.  
John Bowdoin.  
Edward Kerr.  
Isaac Smith.  
Nathaniel L. Savage.
- Alexandria.*  
Mess. John Carlyle.  
Robert Adams.  
Thomas Kirkpatrick.
- Colchester.*  
Mess. Hector Ross.  
Alexander Henderson.  
James Dennistone.
- Dumfries.*  
Mess. William Kerr.  
John Riddell.  
Thomas Montgomerie.

<i>Warwick.</i>	Cumberland Wilson.
Mess. John Esdale.	<i>Boyd's Hole.</i>
Robert Donald.	Mess. Theodorick Bland.
John Leitch.	Andrew Grant.
<i>Rocky Ridge.</i>	<i>Wicomico.</i>
Mess. James Lyle.	Mess. Thomas Reid.
Alexander Banks.	Hugh Hamilton.
Alexander Stewart.	Robert Gilmour.
James Donald.	<i>Brunswick.</i>
<i>Richmond.</i>	Mess. Allan Love.
Mess. Patrick Coutts.	William Edwards.
Neill Campbell.	<i>Great Bridge.</i>
James Buchanan.	Mess. William Smith.
Peterfield Trent.	Richard Templeman.
James M'Dowall.	Daniel Sandford.

RESOLVED, that such Gentlemen as have any matter to recommend to the consideration of the Trade be requested to correspond with Mr. *Haldenby Dixon*, in *Williamsburg*, who will lay the same before the committee at their next meeting, the 30th of *October* next.

#### TO THE MERCHANTS AND TRADERS IN VIRGINIA.

It has long been matter of surprise, and concern, to many hearty friends to the trading interest of this colony, that a body of men, respectable as well from their number as the nature and extent of their connexions, should never yet (in imitation of Great Britain, and other trading countries) have formed themselves into a society, upon regular and liberal principles; by which means they would have had frequent opportunities of establishing a confidence with each other, exceedingly to their interest as individuals, and of gaining that dignity in the community to which they are so justly entitled.

The present crisis, though by no means pleasing in other instances, is, however, favourable in this: The invitation from the first Associators to the commercial part of the country has been accepted, with a cheerfulness equal to the judgment and politeness with which it was offered; and the merchants have, on this occasion, shewn an attachment to the true interest of this colony equal to that of any set of men, and exceeded by none.

They have beheld the *trifling* conduct of Administration with that honest resentment it deserved, and have adopted such mea-

asures as must convince those misguided rulers over an injured people that there is a material difference between forbearance and acquiescence. Whilst there was a probability of obtaining redress they avoided complaints, and would willingly have flattered themselves that some regard would be shewn by the Ministry to their own solemn assurances of doing every thing that was due, in justice, to the people of America.

But how inconsistent with that justice, and how contradictory to those assurances, is the late *partial repeal* of the revenue act complained of! A measure calculated only to deceive those whom they had before abused; and, by lulling them into a fancied security, make the blow which they have meditated against the dearest interests of the colonies more severe and decisive. Happily, however, their designs have been discovered; and will, I hope, be defeated. The people of this colony (and, I doubt not, the whole people of America) are determined no longer to submit to an injury which is aggravated by an insult.

Fired with this laudable resolution, they have formed, and executed, an association against the importation of a variety of articles from Great Britain; and made some other resolutions for the same purpose, as the reader will see at large in the copy published in the Gazette. Neither the time necessary to be taken up on such an occasion, nor their present situation, would permit so full a reformation as the nature of the case required; but as they are determined to go on in perfecting the work, as speedily and with as much propriety as possible, they have established a committee to take under their consideration the general state of the trade in this colony, with a view to make such farther regulations as may appear necessary. This committee is understood to include the whole body of merchants and traders in the colony; who have placed at their head a Gentleman justly entitled to that preference, as well from his known abilities as a merchant, as his warm attachment to the prosperity of this country.

The *Body of Merchants*, have again chosen a select number, who are particularly invited to attend to the business recommended to their consideration, and who will be named hereafter to the publick. It may not be amiss to observe here, that no preference is given to *these* from disregard to any others; *all* are requested to take part in so salutary a measure; and any Gentleman desirous of a place for himself, or his friend, among those of the select committee, will be gratified, upon signifying such his inclination to the Deputy Chairman. The duty of this committee being only to prepare, and offer, such matter as may appear necessary for the consideration of the Trade at their next meeting, this general observation, on the design in establishing such committee, is introduced to prevent any jealousy or

suspicion among such as *were not* present, and to prevent any reflections being cast on the conduct of *those who were*.

But I beg leave to recommend to the publick the consideration of the advantages which may arise to the community from the *continuance* of such a committee. The trade of this colony is considerable and extensive, and no doubt many regulations might be made for its advancement; but, dispersed as the merchants are, and remote from each other, their sentiments cannot be known easily, or, when known, carried into execution, for want of a proper channel. That channel is now opened, and a confidence begun between the *landed* and *trading parts* of the colony (whose *real* interest is the same) which, it is hoped, will be productive of advantage and honour to both. Let this confidence be continued; let it increase; and let those illiberal distinctions which have too long prevailed among us be buried in oblivion.

These are the sentiments of a man truly attached to the happiness of this country. He offers them with deference, and hopes that, at least, he may escape censure. Let not its being an anonymous production lessen the attention which it is wished may be given to it. No signature is necessary on such an occasion; its utility will be its best distinction. The author seeks no *literary fame*, and only hopes to enjoy, in common with his fellow citizens, those advantages which are derived to every individual in a well regulated community.

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#### A SUPPLICATION TO SLEEP.

Care-charming sleep, thou easer of all woes,  
 Brother to death; sweetly thyself dispose  
 On this afflicted prince; fall, like a cloud,  
 In gentle showers; give nothing that is loud  
 Or painful to his slumbers; easy, light,  
 And, as a purling stream, thou son of night,  
 Pass by his troubled senses; sing his pain,  
 Like hollow murmuring wind, or silver raine.  
 Into this prince, gently, oh! gently slide,  
 And kiss him into slumbers like a bride.

*Beaumont and Fletcher's Valentinian.*