

SUSSEX COUNTY (DELAWARE) COMMITTEE.

Dagsberry, July 18, 1775

To the Publick.

Notwithstanding the many rumours and intimations that have been frequently spread, that Thomas Robinson, Esq., of Sussex on Delaware, was counteracting the wise, prudent, and manly measures recommended by the honourable Continental Congress, to put a stop to the calamities of America, and, if possible, avert Ministerial vengeance, which, like a torrent with increasing violence, is rushing down on our heads, yet the Committee, out of tenderness to his character, (as no vouchers appeared) considered those vague reports as not worthy their notice, and therefore declined making inquiry into them. But Mr. Robinson, weakly imagining that this tenderness and lenity proceeded from fear, began to vaunt and exult, and with an effrontery ever the companion on ignorance, proceeded more openly and boldly to stamp his vile and slavish Ministerial principles upon the weak and unwary, over too many of whom, in the forests of Sussex and Maryland, by means of his office and store, he has indeed too much influence.

Since which time the Sub-Committee met at Dagsberry, the 18th July, 1775; and receiving information, clothed with better circumstances, ordered the authors immediately to be brought before them; who deposed as follows:

Peter Watson, being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith: that on Monday, the 10th of this instant, July, being at Robinson's store, on the head of Indian River, he saw John Gazlin, clerk to said Robinson, weigh and sell two small parcels of Bohea Tea, one of which he delivered to a girl, the other to Leatherberry Barker's wife; which aforesaid Tea he took out of a large canister, that he judged would hold about twelve or fifteen pounds. And further saith not.

PETER WATSON.

Sworn to and subscribed this 18th day of July, 1775: before
John Dagworthy.

True Copy: Simon Kollock, Clerk.

Robert Butcher, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposeth and saith: that being in company with Thomas Robinson, Esq., the said Robinson asked him what those Committees were doing; he told him they were advising the people to muster, in order to defend their liberties. Robinson replied, that they were a pack of fools, for it was taking up arms against the king; and that our Charters were not annihilated, ahanged, or altered by the late Acts of Parliament, and therefore we ought to obey the King, and those that were put in authority under him; and that the great people were only leading the poor into a premunire, and after they had done it, they would not help them out of it, And further saith not.

ROBERT BUTCHER.

Sworn to and subscribed this 18th day of July, 1775, before
John Dagworthy.

True copy: Simon Kollock, Clerk.

Nathaniel Mitchell, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposeth and saith: that being in company with Thomas Robinson, Esq., and talking of some publick matters, the said Robinson declared, that the present Congress were an unconstitutional body of men; and also, that the great men were pushing on the common people between them and all danger. And further saith not.

NATHANIEL MITCHELL.

Sworn to and subscribed this 18th day of July, 1775, before
John Dagworthy.