Delaware's Declaration of Independence.

[Copied from Force: American Archives, 4th series, vol.6, pp. 183-184.]

In the House of Representatives for the Counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Sussex, upon Delaware, at Newcastle, Friday, June 14, 1776, A.M.:

Mr. McKean delivered in at the Chair a certified copy of a Resolution of Congress, of the 15th of May last, which was, by order, read, and is in the words following, to wit:

"In Congress, May 15, 1776.

"Whereas his Britannick Majesty, in connection with the Lords and Commons of Great Britain, has, by a late Act of Parliament, excluded the inhabitants of these United Colonies from the protection of his Crown: And whereas no answer whatever to the humble Petitions of the Colonies for redress of grievances and reconciliation with Great Britain, has been, or is likely to be given, but the whole force of that Kingdom, aided by foreign mercenaries, is to be exerted for the destruction of the good people of these Colonies: And whereas it appears absolutely irreconcilable to reason and good conscience for the people of these Colonies now to take the oaths and affirmations necessary for the support of any Government under the Crown of Great Britain, and it is necessary that the exercise of every kind of authority under the said Crown should be totally suppressed, and all the power of Government exerted under the authority of the people of the Colonies, for the preservation of internal peace, virtue, and good order, as well as for the defence of their lives, liberties, and properties, against the hostile invasions and cruel depredations of their enemies: Therefore,

"Resolved, That it be recommended to the respective Assemblies and Conventions of the United Colonies, where no Government sufficient to the exigencies of their affairs has been hitherto established, to adopt such Government as shall, in the opinion of the Representatives

of the people, best conduce to the happiness and safety of their constitutents in particular, and America in general.

"Extract from the Minutes:

"CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary."

By special order the same was read a second time, and,

On motion, Resolved, unanimously, That this House do approve of the said Resolution of Congress.

Saturday, June 15, P. M.

Whereas it is become absolutely necessary for the safety, protection, and happiness of the good people of this Colony, forwith to establish some authority adequate to the exigencies of their affairs, until a new Government can be formed: And whereas the Representatives of the people, in this Assembly met, alone can, and ought at this time, to establish such temporary authority:

Resolved, unanimously, That all persons holding any office, civil, or military, in this Colony, on the 15th day of June instant, may, and shall continue to execute the same, in the name of the Government of the Counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Sussex, upon Delaware, as they used legally to exercise it in the name of the King, until a new Government shall be formed, agreeable to the Resolution of Congress of the 15th of May last.

Extract from the Minutes:

JAMES BOOTH, Clerk of Assembly.