

## CHAPTER VI.

### SIRES AND SONS OF THE REVOLUTION.

1775-1777.

THE people of the thirteen North-American colonies, perceiving that the government of Great Britain arrogantly disregarded their successive appeals for a recognition of their political rights as subjects of the crown, finally elected and sent representatives to a general congress, which opened its sessions in Carpenters' Hall, in Philadelphia, on Monday, September 5, 1774.

The convened delegates, "in order to obtain such establishment" for "the inhabitants of the English colonies in North America" as was not subversive of "their religion, laws, and liberties," set forth certain claims in a series of resolutions, in which the following were embraced :

"Resolved, *nemine contra dicente* [or unanimously]; 1. That they are entitled to life, liberty, and property, and they have never ceded to any sovereign power whatever a right to dispose of either without their consent.

"Resolved, *nemine contra dicente*, 2. That our ancestors, who first settled these colonies, were at the time of their emigration from mother country, entitled to all the rights, liberties, and immunities of free and natural-born subjects, within the realm of England."<sup>1</sup>

On October 20, 1774, for the purpose of quickening into serviceable activity the patriotism of the colonists, the colonial representations drafted a memorial of association, in which it was advised "that a committee be chosen in every county, city, and town by those who are qualified to vote for representatives in the legislature, whose business it shall be to observe attentively the conduct of all persons touching this association; and when it shall be made to appear, to the satisfaction of a majority of any such committee, that any person, within the bounds of their appointment, has violated this association, that such majority do forthwith cause the truth of the case to be published in the gazette to the end that all such foes to the rights of British America may be publicly known and universally contemned as the enemies of American

<sup>1</sup> Journals of the American congress, vol. i., p. 20.