

Ac. 1717

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(CIRCULAR.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 1st, 1822.
MADAM,

YOU are now addressed as a member of a republic, blest by nature with all the necessities and many of the luxuries of life—you are called upon by the general distress of our citizens, and the public shame of our country, to exert yourself as becomes an American, in endeavoring by your example and principles to encourage the women of your neighbourhood and township, to rise in the strength of their virtue and love of country, and assist in wrenching asunder the bonds and fetters clasped on us by the ministry of England through the medium of their manufacturers. Were precedent requisite, a bright example of patriotism is afforded by the conduct of the women of the colonies (now the elder sisters of the United States) who, when the British parliament taxed them contrary to their charter—"the zeal of the daughters of liberty" proscribed the use of *T.A.S.*, and "rendered the usage of it a universal fashion;" all that is now asked of us is, to subdue our own love of the fantastic follies and extravagances of dress. Certainly American citizens have not become

so degenerate as to be incapable of respecting their virtuous and sensible country-women, stirred in the manufactures of their own land. If they have, too soon will the British government have the pleasure of witnessing the hopes and wishes of *Lord North*, the leader of the English ministry, realized by "seeing America prostrate at their feet"—Can it be supposed that Americans are solicitous of this disgraceful situation? No! no! The struggles of the glorious revolution are too fresh in the memories of the descendants of the sages and heroes who achieved it, for them to be content with so abject a station. Let us by retrenching our expences in dress—and supporting our own manufactures to the entire exclusion of all imported fabrics, teach proud Britons that the women of Columbia are truly republicans, and lovers of their country. Let us prove to them that we prefer simple attire and virtuous liberty to all their tinsels and crapes, associated with the oppressive taxes of a government like theirs—that we will not agree to place ourselves in a similar situation to that of the oppressed, yet noble inhabitants of Erin—that we will not agree to pay a tax for the right of

And, now, let us offer for your consideration, the following preambles and resolutions.

CONVINCED that the encouragement of *Domestic Manufactures*, is indispensable to the substantial interests, the permanent welfare, and the real independence of the United States; and believing that a single Act, will conduce more towards the accomplishment of those invaluable objects, than ten thousand inconclusive *propositions*.

Therefore, Resolved, That WE, the undersigned, will henceforward, confine our purchases, for the apparel of ourselves and families, to articles manufactured within the United States.

And not doubting, that these all-important ends may be further promoted—a check given to the destructive extravagance which reigns even in the very poorest of our cabins, and multitudes withheld, or converted from vice, by the encouragement of learning and by an extension of support to American manufactures, beyond the walls of our immediate households.

Therefore, Resolved, That WE will employ only such persons to spin, sew, knit, and weave, as will clothe themselves and families, exclusively in homespun; and appropriate a portion of the money arising from those labours, to the education of their children, or other relatives.

Which resolutions being adopted the following names were subscribed.

Katherine Duane Morgan
Margaret Orr
Mary Wilson
Charlotte Whitehouse
Sarah Linville
Eliza Lindsay
Mary Lindsay
Elizabeth Lindsay
Jane Ann Middleton
Christianas Middleton
Catherine Long
Olivia Whitehouse
Sarah Barnes
Ann Richardson
Mary Morris
Jane Gordon
Suzanna Eckert

*Bravos passing through our windows—
nor for the hearths round which we can
now sit, fearless of tax collectors—and
that we are no longer, to be duped into the
virtual payment to them, of a tax identified
and confounded with the price of their
manufactures—in a word, let us bear in
mind the invaluable lesson, imparted by
that philanthropic and profound statesman
Barre, to the American Regulus, the great
and lamented Quincy—"let us beware of
tasty extravagance in our buildings,
equipage and dress as a DEADLY POISON."*

Believing that you are animated with feelings such as these, I beg leave to furnish you with the subjoined resolutions and the names attached in this borough, not doubting that you will obtain a number of the signatures of your female friends and neighbours.

It is suggested that meetings in the several school-houses would afford the easiest and speediest mode of effecting the object.

As it is proposed to publish a complete list of all the names procured in the county, distinguished by townships, be pleased to forward me yours by the first of February next.

Respectfully

H. De Morgan

Fanny Wolfe
Jane Ruth
Sarah White
Hannah Reed
Sarah Kerr
Eliza Hallinan
Elizabeth M'Cluney
Elizabeth O'Harran
Elizabeth Knott, jr.
Sidney Allender
Elizabeth Ramsey
Rebecca Ramage
Polly Marshall
Sarah Griffith
Jane Mullan
Margaret Bleake
Jane Morrison
Mary Wilson
Ann Brice
Rebecca Denniston
Sarah Wolfe
Sarah Dilke
Ann F. Simes
Hannah Taylor
Sarah Hawkins
Jane M'Clure
Mary O'Hara
Hannah Lattimore
Mary Hull
Margaret Maffot
Mary Devore
Dannah Rupe
Barbara Waltz
Susanna Roberts
Mary Valentine
Jane Scott
Ann Baggalay
Kinea Middleton
Margareta B. Daggs
Margaret Robinson
Rebecca B. Robinson
Margaret Kerr
Margaret M'Adden
Mrs. Robert Anderson
Isabella Threlkeld
Martha Brown
Elizabeth McClellan
Mary Ann Walker
Elizabeth Huichart