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FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE.

Freemason's Tavern, Jan. 17, 1795.

AT an extraordinary General Meeting of the Society of the FRIENDS of the PEOPLE, associated for the purpose of obtaining a PARLIAMENTARY REFORM, held this Day,

The Hon. COLONEL MAITLAND, M. P. in the CHAIR.

RESOLVED, That the following Declaration be published, signed by the Chairman:—

This Society, considering the calamitous Events which have happened in the Interval since their last Meeting, and weighing with the deepest Anxiety, and most serious Apprehension, the probable Consequences of the further Continuance of this ruinous War, as those Consequences may affect, not remotely the Interests, but directly and immediately the Safety of the Nation; and finally, reflecting on the Duties which every Community and every Individual owes to his Country, in this heavy hour of Distress and Danger, are of Opinion, that they should neither act faithfully to the Public, nor even usefully for the Cause in which they have associated, if in a Situation so awful as the present, they were, by any Act or Proceeding of theirs, to furnish a new opportunity to a corrupt and desperate Administration, of again deluding the Public Mind, and gaining a further support to the measures which have involved us in the imminent dangers with which we are actually surrounded.

Under these circumstances, it is our Judgment and Resolution, that we ought to suspend for the present all proceedings on the subject of Parliamentary Reform, in order, individually, to exert our utmost Efforts in every Capacity in which it may be possible for us to act, to promote such measures as may tend to restore Peace, and at the same time to satisfy the People, that the situation to which they are reduced takes its origin from that depraved state of the Representation which we have laboured to expose to public view, and which it has been, and shall be, our constant and determined endeavour to correct.

In Name, and by Order of the Society,
THO. MAITLAND, Chairman.

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