

Original Majesty, and the common Good of all his Subjects: Provided that no Regulation, provision, matter or thing, so proposed, treated, consulted or agreed shall have any other force or Effect or be carried further into Execution, than is mentioned in this Act, until approved by Parliament.

Provided also that the Commrs or any — of them may order & proclaim a Cessation of Hostilities, on the part of his Majestys Troops, in any of the Colonies, for any Time, & under any Conditions or Restrictions, they shall think convenient, and such order & proclamation may revoke & annul, according to their Discretion.

And be it Enacted That the Commrs or any of them, may by proclamation suspend the operation & effects of the Act of Parliament, of the 16th year of his Majesty “for prohibiting all Trade & Intercourse,” or of any of the provisions or Restrictions therein contained, for such convenient Time, as they think proper.

And be it Enacted That the Commrs &c. shall have Power to suspend, in such place, & for such Times, as they may think fit, during the Continuance of this act, the operation & Effect of all or any of the Act or Acts of Parliament, which have passed, since 10th February 1763, & which relate to any of the Colonies, so far as the same does relate to them.

And be it Enacted That the Commrs &c. shall have Power to grant a Pardon or Pardons to any number or Description of Persons, within any of the Colonies, & to appoint a Governor in any Colony, with such powers as heretofore granted by his Majesty.

The Act to continue in force till 1st June 1779.

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in chief

Philad^a 14 April 1778.

Robert Mackenzie Secry

Two opinions prevail here. Some that this insidious Silence originated in Philadelphia, others the far greater number believe it came from the Ministry. the manifest Intention is to amuse us with a Prospect of Peace & to relax our Reservations. I hope my Countrymen will have too much good sense to be deceived. I think it would be adviseable immediately to publish this Attempt, but I hope it will be attended with some Remarks to expose its Design, & remove the baneful Effects it may have on the credulous & weak among the People. M^r Paca has Leisure—it ought not to be attempted to be suppressed.

Captain Nicholson informs, that a Number of Recruits are enlisted for the Enemy in Worcester and Som^{er} Counties, 90 came to the fleet, when he was on board. it is reported the