

DECLARATION of INDEPENDENCE

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect for the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate, that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature, a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise: the State remaining, in the mean time, exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the

population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to the civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation.

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing taxes on us without our consent:

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury:

For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences.

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments:

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is, at this time, transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun, with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow-citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to

be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them, from time to time, of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connexions and correspondence. They, too, have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our separation and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace, friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare: That these United Colonies, are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connexion between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that as free and independent States, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent States may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

JOHN HANCOCK.

Georgia—Button Gwinnet, Lyman Hall, Geo. Walton.

South Carolina—Edward Rutledge, Thos. Heyward, junr., Thomas Lynch, junr., Arthur Middleton.

Virginia—George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thos. Jefferson, Benj. Harrison, Thos. Nelson, Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton.

Delaware—Caesar Rodney, Geo. Read, Tho. M'Kean.

New Jersey—Richd. Stockton, Jno. Witherspoon, Fras. Hopkinson, John Hart, Abra. Clark.

Massachusetts Bay—Saml. Adams, John Adams, Robt. Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry.

North Carolina—Wm. Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn.

Maryland—Samuel Chase, Wm. Paca, Thos. Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton.

Pennsylvania—Robt. Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benja. Franklin, John Morton, Geo. Clymer, Jas. Smith, Geo. Taylor, James Wilson, Geo. Ross.

New York—Wm. Floyd, Phil. Livingston, Fran's. Lewis, Lewis Morris.

New Hampshire—Josiah Bartlett, Wm. Whipple, Matthew Thornton.

Rhode Island and Providence, etc.—Step. Hopkins, William Ellery.

Connecticut—Roger Sherman, Saml. Huntington, Wm. Williams, Oliver Wolcott.

IN CONGRESS,

January 18, 1777.

Ordered:

That an authenticated copy of the Declaration of Independence, with the names of the Members of Congress subscribing the same, be sent to each of the United States, and that they be desired to have the same put on record.

By order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK,

President.

Attest, Chas. Thomson, Secy.

A true copy.

John Hancock, Presidt.

YOUNG FOLKS THE PIPE OF PEACE.

Etiquette of the Calumet Observed by the American Indian.

When you read an account of the conclusion of a treaty with the Indians you are pretty sure to find that the calumet was brought out and handed around. The calumet is a pipe of peculiar construction. The bowl is of red sandstone, and the stem is of reed, about two and a half feet long. The stem is decorated with women's hair and feathers, which hang from it like a fringe.

This pipe is the famous "pipe of peace," used by the American Indian. After a treaty has been concluded the pipe is produced and filled with tobacco. It is then handed to the representatives of the party with whom the treaty has been made, and they must take at least one whiff of it. It is afterward passed around among the Indians present, who also take a whiff of it, and that ceremonial ratifies and makes sacred the compact that has just been entered into. The passing around of the calumet is an act of hospitality, and a refusal to take it is considered a dire offense.—Chicago News.

A Fireside Game.

Word guessing is a good game to play in the evening. One of the players thinks of a word and says, "I have a word of six letters; the first letter is 'g' and the last is 'a.'"

The guessers are allowed to ask any questions they like, which the leader is bound to answer, if he can do so without actually telling the word. The player who guesses the word correctly chooses the next one, and a prize is won by the player guessing the largest number of words.

An Order For the Grocer.

Good morning, Mr. Grocer Boy! My order's long today. My pantry's nearly empty now, because I've been away. I want a pound of nice white flour and yeast to make some bread, Ten pounds of currants for a cake, some icing powder red.

Of butter give me half a pound, of sugar most a ton. I must make candy right away, before the morning's done. Potatoes? Why, of course I don't. And codfish? No, indeed! You interrupt and bother me. I know the things I need.



A quart of strong vanilla bring, and honey, too, and spice, A pound of nutmeg—don't forget—it makes things taste so nice. I want ten dozen freshest eggs, some vaporated cream, And apples, 'bout a peck or two; some dumplings I must steam.

I'll take a box of oranges and chocolate, five cakes, And desiccated cocoanut—such lovely things it makes! Now, hurry up my order, please. I want them very soon. So I can get them all cooked up by luncheon time this noon.

—Youth's Companion.