

Declaration of Independence,
By the Representatives of the United States
of America, in Congress assembled,
July 4, 1776.

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 to 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 abolish it, and to institute 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 most 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 system of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct or indirect consequence 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 assented to 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 inalienable 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 bodies 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 to 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 acknowledged 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 an 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 execrable tools of their friends and brethren, or to fall to 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 connections 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.

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, & 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 connection between them and the States 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 alliance, establish commerce, and 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.

Signed by order, and in behalf of the Congress.

JOHN HANCOCK, President.
CHARLES THOMPSON, Sec.

- New Hampshire—Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton.
- Massachusetts—Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Pain, Elbridge Gerry.
- Rhode Island, &c.—Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery.
- Connecticut—Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott.
- New York—William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris.
- New Jersey—Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark.
- Pennsylvania—Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, Geo. Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross.
- Delaware—Thomas M'Kean, Caesar Rodney, Geo. Reed.
- Maryland—Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll, of Carrollton.
- Virginia—George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, jun. Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton.
- North Carolina—William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Pann.
- South Carolina—Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, jun. Thomas Lynch, jun. Arthur Middleton.
- Georgia—Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton.

From the NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

THE Anniversary of our existence as a nation again returns, and with it the mingled feelings of joy and regret, which it is so well fitted to excite. The leading event it commemorates is great beyond parallel. Other nations have been founded on the best principles of wisdom and justice then extant; but no nation, before our own, has been founded on the principles of eternal wisdom and eternal justice, alone to be found in the enjoyment of equal rights. A prince or a priest, surrounded with the terror of arms, has, in

every other nation, willed its fate, and rested the success of his will on the strength of his arm. Here, for the first time, a nation declared itself free, a nation assumed to itself the supreme power, a nation guaranteed to all its citizens the enjoyment of equal rights. This is a theme for joy and felicitation, for honest pride. But, unfortunately, these feelings are not permitted to be unalloyed. As if the author of nature had ordained that pure and unmixed felicity should never be the lot of man, he has, by the association of ideas inseparable from the character of a reflecting being, given us cause for sadness and sorrow in the loss of many of our greatest and best men, whose pens or swords, whose eloquence or virtues, gave splendor and permanency to the day we now celebrate. Yes, they are gone—our best friends are no longer the inhabitants of this orb! A Washington and Franklin lead on to higher scenes, to nobler employments, to purer pleasures, the illustrious band of revolutionary patriots and heroes, whose names will live on the imperishable pages of history, as the founders of principles destined to be eternal in their existence and unbounded in their extension.

The best celebration of such a day is the employment of our minds in forming a proper estimate of our own condition contrasted with that of others. In every situation of life man is too prone to enmity in the present moment with indulging a hostile spirit of dissatisfaction at his peculiar lot, in surrounding the situation of others with enmity, and throwing his own into shade. As happiness is the great end of his existence, it is proper for him to improve every opportunity that offers to excite in his mind a plausible train of reflections, or to banish those of a painful complexion.

If then we compare the situation of the United States with that of any other country, if we compare its government with that of any other on earth, if we compare the condition of the private citizen with that of the subject of any other power, we shall have abundant reason for gratitude to the Author of Nature, and for congratulating ourselves as crowned, with a permanent share of felicity. There are many among us whose hearts are still in the countries from which they emigrated, whose eyes are here blind to the splendors of a meridian sun, and whose hearts are insensible to the blessings of peace and plenty that surround them. We do not ask such men to sympathize with us in the feelings we indulge on this day. It is scarcely in their power to do so. The chains of habit and prejudice have enslaved them. The charm of nature and the harmony of a well ordered system have no attractions for them. We call only on them, who prize with us the blessings of liberty, to accompany us in a rapid survey of our situation.

The United States, viewed in its physical relations, is more advantageously situated than any other country on earth. No nation, unaided by one government, has such extensive territory, in a climate so temperate and fertile, so abundantly supplied by the beneficence of nature with deep and long streams, and so diversified in aspect and rich in the production of whatever ministers to subsistence and comfort. There is no species of grain, of any considerable value, that does not grow with luxuriance, and that is not raised in greater abundance than is required by our wants. Every valuable root, useful either to man, or to the domestic animals that surround him, is raised with equal facility. We enumerate among our products, wheat, rye, maize, barley, oats, buck-wheat, rice, potatoes, and turnips. Other nations are satisfied with the growth of a few of these articles; we alone produce the whole of them. Besides these our rivers, in connection with the bordering ocean, supply us with inexhaustible stores of the best fish of almost every description.

For our aim, we have an immense production of cotton infinitely transcending our wants; hemp, and flax; and a climate well fitted to the production of wool.

In this list we have a full supply of every necessary of life. Of luxuries & innocent enjoyments nature & art have been equally prodigal. We have the apple, the peach, the plum, the cherry, the grape, a vast variety of melons, and almost every vegetable valued for its nutritive properties or exquisite taste. We have in addition ample materials for the manufacture of sugar, with the prospect of possessing a country that will completely supply us with coffee. Besides the articles enumerated several are raised which, though articles of luxury, are sources of great wealth, among which tobacco holds pre eminent rank.

The superficial observer has not fully weighed the great benefits, which a nation derives from having within its own borders the chief articles of its consumption. It renders it more independent of other nations, less vulnerable by any conduct which may characterize them, insures a more certain and abundant supply of our wants, and by raising at our own doors what ever we consume diminishes the quantity of labor requisite to their production, and thence elevates the condition of the laboring part of the community by insuring to them an abundance and allowing them leisure to improve their minds or to indulge in rational recreation.

Passing on to a comparison of our government with that of any other nation, we find equal cause for gratulation. Ours

is literally, and truly a government of the people, administered by them for their own happiness. It completely protects them in the enjoyment of equal political rights, in the sacred rights of conscience, in the secure enjoyment of property, and the undisturbed employment of their mental or corporeal faculties. Is there a government on earth of which the same can be said? Is there another government in which these rights are not grossly, are not systematically violated? There is none in which the liberty of conscience is not invaded by intolerance or superstition, in which political rights are not unjustly monopolized by the hand of violence or fraud in which the rights of property are not sported with, either by oppression or an oppressive system of taxation, and in which the sphere of individual exertion is not limited by multifarious conditions and restrictions. In the United States we have no privileged orders, no monopolies, no standing armies, (deserving of the name) or vast naval establishments—those pregnant sources of tyranny and of oppression, and concomitants of a wretched and starving population. Two, great consequences follow, of themselves sufficient distinctly to characterize the lot of nations—light taxes and a permanent state of peace. While these continue, the Republic is in little danger. War and money are the great instruments of tyrants. The annals of the world, accordingly, show that they have been the most powerful agents in the subversion of the fairest and proudest fabrics it has ever beheld.

But if we wish to contemplate the strongest attestations to the superior lot of the American over every other people, we ought to compare the situation of the private citizen of these states with that of the subjects of foreign powers. It is here that we strip the pageantry of government of its gaudy trappings, and see its effects delineated, such as they truly are, at the fireside of the lone yeoman. The favored sons of fortune assume the same characters, and seek themselves off in the same cities, with but little variation in every thing and under every species of government. They strive to appear gay and happy, and seem, through a certain medium, to really thought to be so by the common observer. But in the mingling and lower ranks of society there is no disguise. Among them there exists no temptation to hypocrisy, and they do live, if they would. The rays that imperceptibly cover their nakedness, and the artificial looks of fondness that appear in the faces of their wives and children, are absent. On the other hand, where all is sunshine, when the light of every day are invariably crowned with a smile, where the laborer is rewarded with an abundant supply of his own wants, and those of his family, and when every day affords him the means of increasing the circle of his enjoyments, joy sparkles in his eye, his tongue expresses the gratitude he feels, and he finds himself the centre of a circle of content and plenty. Contrasted as this picture is, it is true and more than true, in its application to the laboring man of America and the peasant of Europe. We have already unfolded some of the causes of this marked difference. To detail them all would require a volume. Some of them are to be found in nature, but by far the larger part may be traced to moral principles and political institutions. Human industry is never so active, intelligent or productive, as when directed by the individual, without any interposition on the part of government except to protect it and the fruits it produces. This is the proud and exclusive prerogative of the governments established in this country. From this feature it necessarily follows that no more burthens are imposed upon the people than are absolutely necessary for the promotion of their welfare.

The time has been, even in this country, when many of our wisest men doubted the feasibility of a republican government. But surely these fears ought now to be dismissed. Our system has already endured for thirty years, during which we had to contend with greater difficulties than will probably ever hereafter beset us. Notwithstanding these dangers the American republic has stood unshaken amidst a storm that has subverted empires formerly renowned for their power, and which has agitated the whole civilized world. For twenty-four years of this term we have enjoyed a state of uninterrupted peace, and have increased in numbers with a rapidity that is without precedent, and which is only surpassed by the still greater rapidity with which our wealth has advanced. During this period, we have not been so intoxicated with our prosperity as to be blind to the defects of our systems of government and laws. On the contrary, wisely considering a progression in knowledge among the best attributes of our nature, we have not been too proud or corrupt to profit by the lessons of our own experience, or by those of others.

Behold, fellow citizens, in this picture, a faithful delineation, as far as it goes, of our situation! Reflect upon it, and say if it does not afford an abundant cause for congratulation. Say, if you do not believe in your hearts that the American is the happiest nation on earth; and whether her political institutions, and the intelligence and fidelity with which they are administered, do not shed a brighter and purer lustre than the blazing crown or splendid diadem, with the absolute power they bestow.

PITTSBURGH, Penn., June 24.
We are sorry to learn that the cotton pillars have done very great injury to the grain fields and meadows in this and the neighboring countries.
Extract of a letter from a gentleman at St. Louis, to his friend in this town, dated 26th of May, 1866.
"An unfortunate affair happened here yesterday. A drunken Indian, going through the streets and insulting every person he met, at length he made an attack on Judge Meigs, and drew his tomahawk with an intention to kill him, when a young man of the name of Hammond seeing the dangerous situation of the judge, fired a pistol at the Indian and afterwards stabbed him twice with a dirk, which put an immediate end to his existence. The people are much alarmed, as there are a great many Indians here, and they have discovered considerable resentment on the occasion.

In order to give those who are employed on this establishment an opportunity of joining in the festivity of the day, no paper will be issued until Monday next.

FOR THE AMERICAN,
Citizens of Maryland.

THE times are big with important events; impending difficulties hang over us, and patriotism in our mind and from her sleep; a blood-stained flag is held at a distance; Europe is convulsed with the horrors of war; nations have risen against nations; kingdoms are being destroyed, and the sons of God are every where among men; private and public wars and usurpation direct the minds of some; loudly arrogance and dissipation sway the souls of others; time will march to the world, the hidden mysteries may be awaited, and the sons of Columbia may taste a reverse of fortune from their prosperous successes.

Be mindful therefore of your country's greatness, suffer no infringements on her national honor, be firm and united, to repel aggressions on her dear bought Liberty, Independence and Religion; men will stand a mighty empire on the scale of nations, containing a choice selection of God's own people; wise, valiant, peaceable, virtuous; proving to the universe, the superiority of her government, and her laws, as founded on the firm basis of common sense, the imprescriptible rights of man, and the holy religion of God. Although scarcely emerged from the mother's arms, and got out of leading strings, the infant is assaulted with the jealousy of tyrants, and hellish fury excited to destroy him; instead of wise men coming from the east to rejoice at the birth of young America, and pay homage to his heavenly growth, to virtuous manhood; the fall-like satellites of cruel Herod, seek him on whom to reek their vengeance, and to plunge the dagger in the infant's breast.

Disappointed in the vain attempt, the youth grew up like a well-watered plant, shot deep, bid fair for manhood, and promises, to be the pride of every nation.

But again the torch of venoms is lighted, and the rising greatness of happy Columbia threatened with a fall.
The world is not yet rid of all the monsters which from the first ages of civil society, have disgraced the name, and the character of human beings; on the one side we find a Cain, ready to draw his hand in brothers blood, and on the other a Abel, ready to oppose the will of God and subvert all order; on the one a Balak, and on the other a Balaam, who from a base avarice and cruel heart, was once disposed to pronounce a curse on the people whom God had peculiarly chosen; a people who had done him no harm, and who wished not to quarrel with him; a people in fine, of the same origin, and of the same religion with himself.

He saw them however bid defiance to his vague, though fiend-like anathemas; he saw them wade through a thousand difficulties; he saw them bid defiance to Pharaoh and his hosts; he saw them encounter the solitude of the desert; he saw them penetrate through the trackless frozen wilds, to wage war against, and oppose the savage tribes; he saw them break the iron fetters of slavery with which they were closely bound, and throw aside the links to rust;—In fine, he saw that God overshadowed them with his protecting shield, and heard the herald of victory proclaim them Free and Independent.

Dismayed and discomfited, malice rancled in his breast, and that arch fiend Satan, prime minister to his hellish designs, rejoicing at his iniquity, goads him on again to tread the blood-stained theatre of war, and with fiend-like fury and lawless way to fall unreluctingly on defenceless prey.

Thus fellow-citizens the rising glory and greatness of your beloved country, which shines like so many meteors in the starry firmament, the splendor whereof so far eclipse the rest, that jealousy is excited to tarnish their lustre.
For again the wounds of national honor bleed afresh; again the purple gore of a peaceful citizen is mingled with the briny ocean, and a mangled