

# THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured 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 made 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 honour.

## JOHN HANCOCK.

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

ARTICLES