

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 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 attentions 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 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.

<b>JOHN HANCOCK.</b>			
<p><b>GEORGIA.</b> Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, Geo. Walton.</p> <p><b>NORTH-CAROLINA.</b> Wm. Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn.</p> <p><b>SOUTH-CAROLINA.</b> Edward Rutledge, Thos. Heyward, jun. Thomas Lynch, jun. Arthur Middleton.</p> <p><b>MARYLAND.</b> Samuel Chase, Wm. Paca, Thos. Stone, Charles Carroll, of Carrollton.</p>	<p><b>VIRGINIA.</b> George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Ths. Jefferson, Benja. Harrison, Thos. Nelson, jr. Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton.</p> <p><b>PENNSYLVANIA.</b> Robt. Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benja. Franklin, John Morton, Geo. Clymer, Jas. Smith, Geo. Taylor, James Wilson, Geo. Ross.</p>	<p><b>DELAWARE.</b> Cæsar Rodney, Geo. Read.</p> <p><b>NEW-YORK.</b> Wm. Floyd, Phil. Livingston, Frans. Lewis, Lewis Morris.</p> <p><b>NEW-JERSEY.</b> Richd. Stockton, Jno. Witherspoon, Fras. Hopkinson, John Hart, Abra. Clark.</p> <p><b>NEW-HAMPSHIRE.</b> Josiah Bartlett, Wm. Whipple, Matthew Thornton.</p>	<p><b>MASSACHUSETTS- BAY.</b> Saml. Adams, John Adams, Robt. Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry.</p> <p><b>RHODE-ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE, &amp;c.</b> Step. Hopkins, William Ellery.</p> <p><b>CONNECTICUT.</b> Roger Sherman, Saml. Huntington, Wm. Williams, Oliver Wolcott.</p>

In CONGRESS, January 18, 1777.

ORDERED, That an authenticated copy of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCY, 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. CHA. THOMSON, secr. A true copy, JOHN HANCOCK, pres.

Mr. Smith from the committee of claims brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

By the COMMITTEE of CLAIMS.

IN obedience to the order of the honourable house, your committee have examined the accounts of the treasurers of the western and eastern shores, and compared the payments made by them with the vouchers, and find, by account settled the twenty-seventh day of February, a balance due from this state to William Hindman, Esq; treasurer of the eastern shore, of four hundred