

A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.

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 & 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 ~~that~~ ^{the} separation.

We hold these truths to be ^{self-evident}, that all men are created equal & independent, that ^{they are endowed by their creator with certain} rights that ^{from that equal creation they derive} life, liberty, & 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 ~~shall~~ becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, & to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles & organizing it's powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety & happiness. prudence indeed will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light & transient causes: and accordingly all experience hath shewn 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 & usurpations [begin at a distinguished period, & pressing invariably the same object, evinces a design to ~~reduce~~ ^{bring} them ^{under absolute Despotism}, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such ~~it~~ ^{to provide new guards for their future security}, such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; & 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 unremitting injuries and usurpations, [among which, ^{appears no solitary fact} ~~to~~ ^{to} contradict the uniform tenor of the rest, ^{install} ~~all of which~~ ^{all of which} have for direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. to prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world, for the truth of which we pledge a faith not unswerving by falsehood.]

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 a juris-
-diction over these our states, we have reminded them of the circumstances of
our emigration & settlement here, [no one of which could warrant so strange a
pretension: that these were effected at the expence of our own blood & treasure,
assisted by the wealth or the strength of Great Britain: that in constituting
indeed our several forms of government, we had adopted one common king, thereby
laying a foundation for perpetual league & amity with them: but that submission to their

created: and we appealed to their native justice & magnanimity, ^{as well as to the ties}
of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations which were likely to interrupt
our ^{connection &} correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice &
of consanguinity, [When occasions have been given them, by the regular course of
their laws, of removing from their councils the disturbers of our harmony, they
have by their free election re-established them in power. at this very time too they
are permitting their chief magistrate to send over not only soldiers of our common
blood, but Scotch & foreign mercenaries to invade ^{us} ~~us~~. these facts

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+ 8th Franklin

abolishing our most ^{valuable} ~~important~~ laws
 for taking away our charters & altering fundamentally the forms of our governments,
 for suspending our own legislatures & 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 & saying war against us} [withdrawing his governors, & declaring us out
 of his allegiance & protection.]
 he has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns & destroyed the
 lives of our people.
 he is at this time transporting large armies of ^{Soldiers and other} foreign mercenaries to complete
 the works of death, desolation & tyranny already begun with circumstances
^{scarcely parallel in the most barbarous ages} of cruelty & perfidy unworthy the head of a civilized nation:
 he 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, & conditions [of existence].
 He has incited treasonable insurrections of our fellow-citizens, with the
^{he has encouraged them to take up arms against the King, to become the executioners of their friends & neighbors} allurements of forfeiture & confiscation of our property,
 he has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating it's most sa-
 cred rights of life & liberty in the persons of a distant people who never of-
 fended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemi-
 sphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This
 piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the
Christian king of Great Britain. determined to keep open a market
 where MEN should be bought & sold he has prostituted his negative
 for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this
^{determining to keep open a market where MEN should be bought & sold:} execrable commerce: and that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact
 of distinguished die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms
 among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he has deprived them,
 by ~~exciting~~ ^{inciting} the same upon whom he also obtruded them: thus copying
 off former crimes committed against the liberties of one people, with crimes
 which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.]

+ 8th Franklin

in every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble
 forms; our repeated petitions have been answered ^{only} by repeated injuries. a prince
 whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit
 to be the ruler of a people ^{free} [who mean to be free]. future ages will scarce believe
 that the hardness of one man, adventured within the short compass of twelve years
^{to lay a foundation for broad & undisguised, for tyranny} only, ~~to lay a foundation for broad & undisguised, for tyranny~~
 over a people fostered & fixed in principle
 of liberty & freedom]