

And they were brought to prove. I shall suppose the letters had been obtained as infamously as the essay on woman, and more infamously it is impossible; yet my judgment in the conduct of a Governor writing to men in high authority, on the political affairs of his province, and concluding as his advice, that the liberty of British subjects must be abridged, would not have been altered from that circumstance. And here I must avow my sentiments as freely as Governor Hutchinson has communicated his, that any officer in government, much less the supreme magistrate, entrusted with the preservation of the rights of every individual in his province, who could entertain such sentiments, is unfit to be employed in any office, civil or military, after a fact of so heinous a nature against the constitution being fully proved. I am confident our ancestors, instead of giving such a man an enormous pension, would have inflicted the punishment he deserved, which I think should have been an address to the Crown, that he might never more have been employed in the service of the public.

I know there are many men high in favour, who are for abridging the liberties of the people in the colonies. My system, on the contrary, is for preserving them sacred and inviolate, according to their several ancient institutions, the variety of which forms the harmony and beauty of the whole. There is no middle institution as in this country, to balance between the people and the Crown; the Assemblies are their only barrier; they are therefore the favourite protection against the exactions, oppressions and extortions of Governors, and are on that account cautious and jealous of any infringement that shall diminish their power. The honourable Gentleman (Governor Lyttleton) who seconded this Address, has been long employed in his Majesty's representative in the colonies, first in Carolina, and lately in Jamaica. Every thing he offers to this House must derive great weight from these circumstances; his abilities are undisputed. I have not the honour of knowing him, but have heard his talents universally acknowledged. Having been on the spot in some places, it must give him many additional advantages, for I maintain it is impossible for any man, who has not seen with his own eyes, and heard with his own ears, to know equally well the manners, customs, dispositions and other circumstances necessary to form a true judgment on the present contest with the colonies. But it is also necessary to know some leading circumstances respecting the person who offers his information and advice, before we hastily concur in his opinion. The honourable gentleman says, "it may be strange; that he, who was grown grey in the service of America, should now appear among the first to propose these coercive measures, which by some are termed cruel and harsh;" but this he excuses from his humanity. I say, it may appear strange to some, who are not acquainted with the history of that Gentleman's administration so well as I, that he should take this forward part. But here I premise, that I do not enter into the merit of the dispute which that Gentleman had with the Assembly of Jamaica, because it is beyond my present argument. All I assert is, that he had an unfortunate dispute with that body, which lasted two years; that during this period, they could do no business with him, or raise any money; that he dissolved the Assembly more than once, and still a great majority were found against his measures; that he was at last recalled, and a successor appointed, who cancelled his proceedings, upon one of the most unfortunate representations that ever attended any man upon leaving his government. I am therefore not surprised that the honourable gentleman should be inimical to American Assemblies, or that he should be ready to join with those who have found out a shorter way of governing them than by the general sense of the people; seeing they are so troublesome on many occasions, to the repose of a Governor.

[To be continued.]

PHILADELPHIA.  
CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.  
**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 and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the Cause which impels 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 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 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, until 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 without, and Convulsion within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations 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 neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, 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 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 that 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 Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces 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 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 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.

Signed by Order, and in Behalf of the Congress,  
JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

ATTEST:  
CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

In CONGRESS, July 4.

RESOLVED, That the board of War be empowered to employ such a number of persons as they shall find necessary to manufacture flints for the Continent and for this purpose to apply to the respective Assemblies, Conventions and Councils or Committees of Safety of the United American States, or Committees of Inspection of the counties and towns thereto belonging; for the names and places of abode of persons skilled in the manufacture of flint, and of the places in their respective States where the best flint stones are to be obtained, with samples of the same.

By Order of Congress,  
JOHN HANCOCK, President.

WAR OFFICE, Philadelphia, July 6, 1776.

ALL persons in the United American States, who are able to inform the Congress of any quantities of flint stone, or of any persons who are skilled in the manufacture of flints, are requested to apply in person, or by letter, to the Board of War and Ordnance, at the War Office in Market Street, near the corner of Fourth Street. All printers of news papers in the several States are desired to insert this advertisement.

RICHARD PETER, Junr. Sec'y.

WILLIAMSBURG, (Virginia) June 28.

By a gentleman from Bermuda, who left that island the 15th inst. we learn, that advices had been received from Martinica just before his sailing, that great preparations were making there for some important expedition, which no one doubted was against the British West Indies; and the gentleman says, he shall not be at all surprised to hear that the chief part of the islands are in the possession of the French in a very few weeks. That the men of property in the islands have been for some time shipping off their valuable effects to England, and ordering insurances to be made on their estates; and that the price of provisions has risen to an enormous height, corn selling at 18s. per bushel, pork at four half pence per barrel, butter at 6s. a pound, and flour selling at any price that is asked.

N E W - Y O R K, July 11.

Since our last several of the new-raised Regiments of Connecticut troops have arrived in town, and appear to be as fine a body of men as any engaged in the present grand struggle for Liberty and Independence. Among them the Light Dragoons, between 4 and 600, who came to town yesterday, and paraded on horseback, through the city, made a noble and martial appearance; and as this corps are composed of the substantial Yeomanry of a virtuous Sister State, nothing could be more agreeable as animating to all true friends of their country. Some of these worthy soldiers attired in their present uniforms, at the first reduction of Lou Burg, and their blank lean cheeks, and worn coats, are viewed with more veneration by their fellow countrymen, than if they were glittering Nabobs from India, or Bahaws with nine Tails. (New York Journal.)

On Sunday last a number of felons confined in the new goal, attempted an escape; the ringleader, it seems, was one Armstrong, a murderer, of whom we have had the following account, viz. That he was a deserter from the Regulars at Boston, and entered himself into one of our Rifle companies before that place; that he was a remarkably wicked disorderly desperate fellow, that some months ago, soon after the arrival of the army from Boston, he broke into the house of Mr. Jacob Pizer at the Whitehall, and took from them all his wearing apparel. Some night he went into the house of Mr. James Meldeum, at the Slip market, when most of the family were in bed, that a young woman of the house, roused his business, and desired him to walk out; that he refused, and attempted to take hold of her, when she threatened to scold him with hot water from a tuckster, and endeavoured to leave the room, that he followed her, and struck the edge of a sawhawk into her skull, of which she instantly died. That he then rushed out of the house, was pursued by the man of the house and others, who, by the assistance of the watch, secured him. That at the last Supreme court, he was brought on his trial for the murder, but there not being a jury to be had, he was remanded till the next session. That having, with a number of confederates, formed a conspiracy to assassinate