

The Day We Celebrate.

If there is any day more dear than another to the heart of every patriotic citizen of this beautiful land of ours, it is Independence Day—Fourth of July—the day we celebrate as commemorating one of the most heroic and praiseworthy struggles for liberty in the history of the world.

After years of discouragement and defeat, years when hope seemed dead, and when the undertaking of the handful of brave men appeared in every way too much for them, the light came, the clouds broke away, and the sunshine of success streamed in upon their almost broken and dismembered hearts and fortunes.

With literally nothing left to begin with, with everything sacrificed upon the altar of their country, with the foe formidable, rich, respected on land and sea and known and tried of all men, the outlook for the Colonists was dark and disheartening almost beyond precedent. But then their sublime courage never faltered, their determination knew no yielding, their hopes were high and their ambitions limitless. Sturdily, cheerily and bravely they went to work to reconstruct and rehabilitate out of the wreck of the disintegrated remains of a monarchical outpost an independent republic—a home for the homeless, and a land and a country that should be of the people and for the people.

Who shall tell of the hard work, the dark days, the weary hours, the aching heads and tired hands that this day, this red-letter day, the day of all the days of all the years of the history of this great nation, represent! Who shall tell of the anxieties, the apprehensions, the sleepless hours of darkness and the alert hours of daylight through which that unequalled band of patriots passed during the first months after the declaration of independence, when they threw off at once and forever the British yoke, deeded and defied the mother country, flung away their swaddling clothes and sprang into the arena to fight—again, if need be, to suffer, to toil, to strive to develop and to bring into a glorious fruition this wonderfully beautiful idea of American independence!

One day, one object, one spirit, one hope, one glory, and to make the most of this day, to fill it brimful of life, light, good cheer and a good time generally should be the purpose of every responsible American citizen who calls this beautiful country his home.

And it is a day for powder and cannon, bonfire, crackers and torpedoes, and small boys and games and uproarious fun; a day for long strolls through quiet meadows and along shady lanes; a day for soldiery, and a day for sentiment, and in its honor let us burn powder and blow horns and make the very clouds vibrate with the reflex action of our patriotic enthusiasm.—New York Ledger.

THE SAME OLD STORY.



As Badly Off as Before.

The Cynic—Well, I knew it would result as it has. The Pessimist—How's that? The Cynic—Oh, no sooner do magazines drop to 10 cents than so many spring into existence that a person is broke if he tries to buy them all.

A wooden monument has been erected over George du Maurier's grave over the place, that is, in Hampstead churchyard, where the cartoonist was buried. His ashes have been kept.



When Freedom from her mountain height Unfurled her standard to the air, She tore the azure robe of night, And set the stars of glory there; She mingled with its gorgeous dyes The milky baldric of the skies, And striped its pure, celestial white With streakings of the morning light; Then, from his mansion in the sun, She called her eagle bearer down, And gave into his mighty hand, The symbol of her chosen land.

Majestic monarch of the cloud! Who rear'st aloft thy regal form, To hear the tempest trumping loud, And see the lightning lances driven, When strive the warriors of the storm, And roll the thunder-drum of heaven— Child of the sun! to thee 'tis given To guard the banner of the free, To hover in the sulphur smoke To ward away the battle-stroke, And bid its bleedings shine afar, Like rainbows on the cloud of war, The harbingers of victory!

PREDICTIONS OF JOHN ADAMS

Extract from a Letter to His Wife, July 3, 1776.

Philadelphia, July 3, 1776. Had a declaration of independence been made seven months ago, it would have been attended with many great and glorious effects. We might, before this hour, have formed alliance with foreign states. We should have mastered Quebec, and been in possession of Canada.

You will, perhaps, wonder how such a declaration would have influenced our affairs in Canada; but, if I could write with freedom, I could easily convince you that it would, and explain to you the manner how. Many gentlemen in high stations, and of great influence have been duped, by the ministerial bubble of commissioners, to treat; and in real, sincere expectation of this event, which they so fondly wished, they have been slow and languid in promoting measures for the reduction of that province. Others there are in the colonies who really wished that our enterprise in Canada would be defeated; that the colonies might be brought into danger and distress between two fires, and be thus induced to submit. Others really wished to defeat the expedition to Canada, lest the conquest of it should elevate the minds of the people too much to hearken to those terms of reconciliation which they believed would be offered us. These jarring views, wishes and designs occasioned an opposition to many salutary measures which were proposed for the support of that expedition, and caused obstructions, embarrassments, and studied delays which have finally lost us the province.

All these causes, however, in conjunction, would not have disappointed us if it had not been for a misfortune which could not have been foreseen, and perhaps could not have been prevented—I mean the prevalence of the smallpox among our troops. This fatal pestilence completed our destruction. It is a frown of Providence upon us, which we ought to lay to heart.

But, on the other hand, the delay of this declaration to this time has many great advantages attending it. The hopes of reconciliation which were fondly entertained by multitudes of honest and well-meaning, though shortsighted and mistaken people, have been gradually, and at last totally extinguished. Time has been given for the whole people maturely to consider the great question of independence, and to ripen their judgment, dissipate their fears, and assure their hopes, by discussing it in newspapers and pamphlets—by debating it in assemblies, conventions, committees of safety and inspection—in town and county meetings, as well as in private conversations! so that the whole people, in every colony, have now adopted it as their own act. This will cement the union, and avoid those heats, and perhaps convulsions, which might have been occasioned by such a declaration six months ago.

But the day is past. The second day of July, 1776, will be a memorable epocha in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations, as the great Anniversary Festival, it ought to be commemorated, as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp, shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of the continent to the other, from this time forward forever.

You may think me transported with enthusiasm; but I am not. I am well aware of the toll and blood and treasure that it will cost us to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these states. Yet, through all the gloom, I can see the rays of light and glory; I can see that the end is more than worth all the means, and that posterity will triumph, although you and I may rue, which I hope we shall not.

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 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 connection 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 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.

JOHN HANCOCK, President of Congress and Delegate from Massachusetts.

True Americanism.

Behold what a great fire a little matter kindled! Senator Sumner's speech on the Alabama question, which excited only passing notice here at that time, set all England ablaze. The reason of this is plain. The English people have been constantly deceived by Americans traveling in that country as to the real state of feeling toward them in the United States. There are but few Americans who are republicans or democrats to the core; and when they go abroad and dine at the tables of English monarchists they shed their Americanism with alacrity, and toady to the ignorance and bigotry of their entertainers, and asseverate that the warmest fraternal feelings are cherished by the people of the United States for their "English brethren," whereas the fact is, there is a strong and deep-seated feeling in America of resentment or hostility to Great Britain. Do not misunderstand us. We are not for war with any nation; on the contrary, we are for building up this nation in wealth, in civilization, in refinement, in political strength, in military power, in all things that go to make us broad and tall and great; and then we are for having this nation, in the majesty of its might, stand for peace, for humanity and a common brotherhood. Is there not, at last, to be realized on earth the conception of a missionary nation—a people too great and too numerous to be anything else but magnanimous and kind and loving? Let us give the pulsations of the mighty heart of this nation to the welfare of the world, and settle all petty national quarrels in a spirit characteristic of a generous and a mighty people.—New York Ledger.



AY of glory! welcome day! Freedom's banners greet thy ray; See! how cheerfully they play With thy morning breeze, On the rocks where pilgrims kneel, On the heights where squadrons wheel'd, When a tyrant's thunder peal'd O'er the trembling seas.

God of armies! did thy "stars In their courses" smite his ears, Blast his arm, and wrest his bars From the heaving tide? On our standard, lo! they burn, And, when days like this return, Sparkle o'er the soldier's urn Who for freedom died.

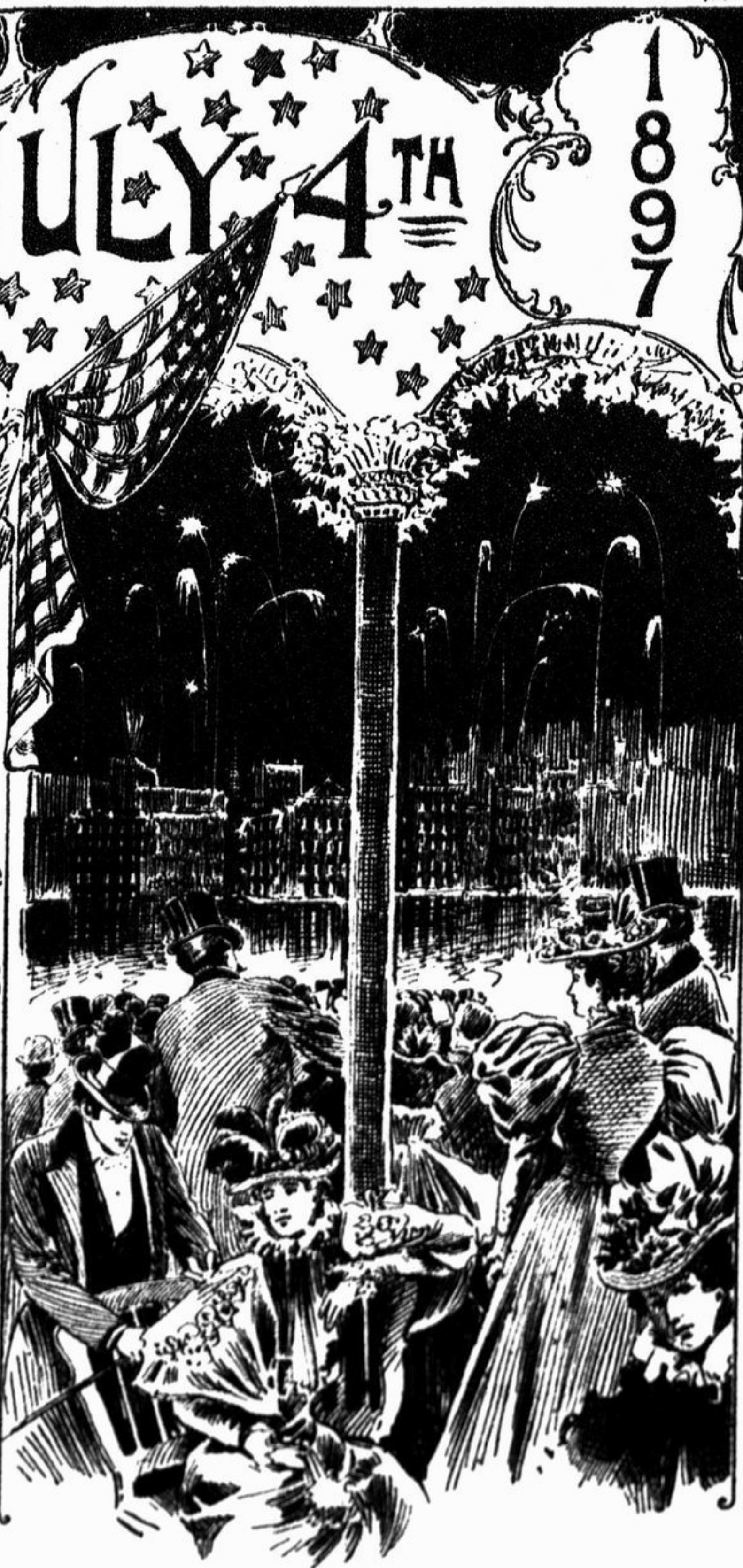
God of peace!—whose spirit fills All the echoes of our hills, All the murmurs of our rills, Now the storm is o'er;— O, let freemen be our sons; And let future Washingtons Rise, to lead their valiant ones, Till there's war no more.

By the patriot's hallow'd rest, By the warrior's gory breast, Never let our graves be press'd By a despot's throne; By the Pilgrims' toils and cares, By their battles and their prayers, By their ashes,—let our heirs Bow to thee alone.

A Webster Anecdote.

Once while Mr. Webster was addressing the senate the senate clock commenced striking, but instead of striking twice at 2 p. m. continued to strike without cessation more than forty times. All eyes were turned to the clock and Mr. Webster remained silent until the clock had struck about twenty, when he thus appealed to the chair, "Mr. President, the clock is out of order! I have the floor!"—Argonaut.

Judge—I think I have seen you before. Prisoner—I have had that honor, your honor. I shaved your honor last week. Judge—Twenty years.



THE DECLARATION.



THE Declaration of Independence was the grandest document ever penned by human hand. The original document is still preserved in the government archives at Washington where it is guarded night and day as the most sacred relic of our infancy as a nation. It has been printed and reprinted as it should be. Every American should know it by heart. Every foreigner coming to our shores should familiarize himself with it before entering upon the privileges of citizenship. Yet it is safe to say that it is not read much nowadays. Fifty years ago the reading of the declaration was a part—the part—of every Independence Day celebration. Of late decades the custom has disappeared almost entirely. It ought to be revived. No celebration of the day should pass without its being read and without its history being retold.

The immortal document was drafted by Thomas Jefferson, amended slightly by his colleagues of the committee of the Continental Congress, and reported and adopted on July 4, 1776. On June 7th of that year Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia, offered in the name of his state a resolution in congress:

"That these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states."

This resolution was seconded by John Adams, of Massachusetts; the debate upon which began on the following day, and continued two days.

On July 2, 1776, Lee's resolution was called up, and delegates from twelve colonies (New York not voting) unanimously declared "that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states."

But as the declaration was not reported and adopted until July 4th, the anniversary of independence was fixed on that day. The document, which had been relegated to a committee for preparation, is as follows:

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:



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That all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable 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 and abolish it, and to institute a 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 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 desire 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 record 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 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 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 many 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 meantime, 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 condition 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 the 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 offenses; 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 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 among 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



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