

colonies in war for a few pence on a pound of tea?" The answer was, "It is not the amount of the tax, but the accursed principle upon which Parliament bases the claim of right to levy ANY tax, that we are fighting." It was fought out on that line, and King George lost one of the brightest jewels in his crown.

This principle has also been demonstrated at a much later date. The representatives of the United States, assembled for the first time as a congress of an independent nation, declared: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: 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." Jefferson, in his original draft of the Declaration of Independence, emphasized the words "All men," by this charge: "He (the king), has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty, in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation hither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian king of Great Britain. Determined to open a market where men should be bought and sold, he has prostituted his negative, for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or restrain this execrable commerce. And that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact of distinguished dye, 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 murdering the people upon whom he also obtruded them, thus paying off former crimes committed against the liberties of one people with the crimes which he urges them to commit against the lives of another."

Slavery existed in the colonies. The representatives, fearing the people, would not ratify the Declaration, the clause which Jefferson had written was stricken out, and the general term, "All men," was left undefined and unemphasized. The long years of mental and physical struggle for freedom during the Revolutionary War extended the mental horizon of American statesmen, and they began to perceive that "All men" might possibly include Africans, and thus the question which statesmen thought they had settled by the compromise made at the time of adopting the Declaration, forced itself into the convention which met to amend the defective Articles of Confederation. There the wrong of slavery was not denied, but the feelings of the delegates were expressed by one who said: "We have a wolf by the ears, and we dare not hold on