

of the society of nations. The nature of the Union and the relation of the States to their agency, the United States, can best be shown by the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, which in the American system interprets the Constitution, treaties, statutes of Congress, the Constitutions and the laws of States whenever a federal question is involved.

In the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence the revolutionary statesmen dissolved the political bands connecting them with the mother country in order "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." That was the purpose of the Declaration. The result of it is appropriately stated in the final paragraph of that immortal document:

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 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.

The second of the Articles of Confederation declares that "Each State retains its sovereignty, freedom and independence, and every power, jurisdiction and right, which is not by this confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled."

The tenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides that "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." The sense in which the terms "States" and "people" are used in the Constitution and the relations of the States to the United States are thus explained in the following