

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 made 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 connexion and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of 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 connexion 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. 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.*

New-Hampshire, Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton.
Massachusetts-Bay, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Rob. T. Paine, Elbridge Gerry.
Rhode-Island, Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery.
Connecticut, Roger Sherman, Saml. Huntington, Wm. Williams, Oliver Wolcott.
New-York, William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris.
New-Jersey, Rich. Stockton, J. Witherspoon, Fr. Hopkinson, J. Hart, Ab. Clark.
Pennsylvania, Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton.
George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross.
Delaware, Caesar Rodney, George Read.
Maryland, Saml. Chase, Wm. Paca, Tho. Stone, Charles Carroll, of Carrollton.
Virginia, Geo. Wythe, Rich. H. Lee, Th. Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, jun. Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton.
North-Carolina, William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn.
South Carolina, Edw. Rutledge, Th. Heyward, jr. Th. Lynch, jr. Ar. Middleton.
Georgia, Butts Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton.