
A
 DECLARATION
 BY THE
 REPRESENTATIVES
 OF THE
 UNITED COLONIES OF NORTH AMERICA;
 NOW MET IN
 GENERAL CONGRESS AT PHILADELPHIA;
 SETTING FORTH
 THE CAUSES AND NECESSITY OF THEIR TAKING UP ARMS.

IF it was possible for men who exercise their reason to believe, that the Divine Author of our existence intended a part of the human race to hold an absolute property in, and an unbounded power over others, marked out by his infinite goodness and wisdom as the objects of a legal domination, never rightfully resistible, however severe and oppressive; the inhabitants of these Colonies might at least require from the Parliament of Great Britain some evidence, that this dreadful authority over them has been granted to that body. But a reverence for our Great Creator, principles of humanity, and the dictates of common sense, must convince all those who reflect upon the subject, that Government was instituted to promote the welfare of mankind, and ought to be

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