

In our own native land, in defence of the freedom that is our birthright, and which we ever enjoyed 'till the late violation of it—for the protection of our property, acquired solely by the honest industry of our fore-fathers and ourselves, against violence actually offered, we have taken up arms. We shall lay them down when hostilities shall cease on the part of the aggressors, and all danger of their being renewed shall be removed, and not before.

With an humble confidence in the mercies of the supreme and impartial Judge and Ruler of the universe, we most devoutly implore his divine goodness to conduct us happily through this great conflict, to dispose our adversaries to reconciliation on reasonable terms, and thereby to relieve the empire from the calamities of civil war.

By Order of CONGRESS,  
JOHN HANCOCK, President.

Attested,

CHARLES THOMPSON, Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA, July 6th, 1775.

## **The TWELVE UNITED COLONIES,**

By their DELEGATES in CONGRESS,

*To the Inhabitants of Great-Britain.*

FRIENDS, COUNTRYMEN, and BRETHREN!

**B**Y these, and by every other appellation, that may designate the ties, which bind US to each other, we entreat your serious attention to this our second attempt, to prevent their dissolution.—Remembrance of former friendships,—pride in the glorious achievements of our common ancestors, and affection for the heirs of their virtues, have hitherto preserved our mutual connection.—But when that friendship is violated by the grossest injuries; when the pride of ancestry becomes our reproach, and we are no otherwise allied than as tyrants and slaves, when reduced to the melancholy alternative of renouncing your favor, or our freedom—can we hesitate about the choice? Let the spirit of Britons determine.

In a former Address, we asserted our Rights, and stated the injuries we had then received. We hoped, that the mention of our wrongs, would have roused that honest indignation, which  
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