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DECLARATION
OF
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

Deeming the following highly important document, will be cheerfully received and read by our patrons, on the return of the *memorable day* of its birth it is with no small degree of gratification introduced in the Star this morning.

IN CONGRESS. JULY 4, 1776.

A DECLARATION by the Reprsentatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled.

WHEN, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and 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, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.—Prudence, indeed, will dictate, that governments long established should not be changed for light and transcient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, whilst evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferings of these colonies; and such now is the necessity which constrains them to alter all their former systems of government. The history of the present king of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this fact let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature; a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable and distant from the repository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into their measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused, for a long time after such dissolutions to cause them to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the state remaining in the mean time exposed to all the danger of invasion from without, and convulsions from within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers, to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to the civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these states:

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing taxes on us without our consent:

For depriving us of the benefits of trial by jury:

For transporting us beyond the seas to be tried for pretending offences:

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies:

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments:

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is, at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries, to compleat the work of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, & totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow-citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned 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 love of our common kindred, to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and 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, 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 INDEPENENT STATES; that they are absolved from all allegiance of the British crown, and that all connection between them and the state of Great Britain, and ought to be totally dissolved; and 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.

New-Hampshire.
Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple,
Mathew Thornton.

Massachusetts Bay.
Samuel Adams, John Adams,
Robert T. Paine, Elbridge Gerry.

Rhode Island, &c.
Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery.

Connecticut.
Roger Sherman, Sam. Huntington,
William Williams, Oliver Wolcott.

New-York.
William Floyd, Philip Livingston,
Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris.

New-Jersey.
Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon,
Francis Hopkinson, John Hart,
Abraham Clark.

Pennsylvania.
Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush,
Benjamin Franklin, John Morton,
George Clymer, James Smith,
George Taylor, James Wilson,
George Ross.

Delaware.
Cæsar Rodney, Thomas M'Kean,
George Read.

Maryland.
Samuel Chase. William Paca,
Thomas Stone. Charles Carrol, *of Carrolton.*

Virginia.
George Wythe, Richard H. Lee,
Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison,
Thos. Nelson, jun. Francis L. Lee,
Carter Braxton.

North Carolina.
William Hooper, Joseph Hewes.
John Penn.

South Carolina.
Edward Rutledge, Thos. Heyward, jun
Thomas Lynch, jun. Arthur Middleton,

Georgia.
Button Gwinnett. Lyman Hall,
George Walton.

MR. ADAMS' CORRESPONDENCE
CONTINUED.

To the Printers of the Boston Patriot.

SIRS,

MR. HAMILTON, in his pamphlet page 28, speaking of Talleyrand's dispatches, says, "overtures so circuitous and informal, through a person who was not the regular organ of the French government for making them, to a person who was not the regular organ of the French government for receiving them, &c. were a very inadequate basis for the institution of a new mission."

Here, again, Mr. Hamilton's total ignorance or oblivion of the practice of our own government, as well as the constant usage of other nations in diplomatic proceedings, appears in all its lustre. In 1785, the congress of the United States, the then sovereign of our country, issued fifteen commissions, as I remember; if I mistake the number colonel Humphreys can correct me, for he was the secretary of legation to them all, and possesses, as I suppose, the original parchments, to John Adams, Benjamin Franklin. and Thomas Jefferson, to form commercial treaties with all the commercial powers of Europe, and Barbary states. Our instructions were to communicate these credentials to the ambassadors of these powers at Versailles, not to go to those courts. And we did communicate them in this informal and circuitous manner, and received very civil answers. We were not told if congress wished any connections with us, commercial or political, let them send ambassadors directly to our courts. It is inconcistent with our dignity to receive, or pay any attention to such indirect, circuitous, and informal overtures.

These indirect and circuitous communications, as Hamilton calls them, are of established usage and daily practice all over the world. Instances of them without number might be quoted. I shall only recite two or three.

The Baron de Thulemier, ambassador from Frederick the great, king of Prussia, whose name and character Mr. Hamilton affects to admire, wrote me a letter when I was minister plenipotentiary in Holland, informing me that he had received the commands of the king, his master, to make me a visit, and communicate something to me as minister from the United States of America, and desired to know at what hour I would receive him. I wrote him in answer that I would have the honor of receiving him at twelve o'clock, of the next day, or if he wished an earlier interview, I would call on him, at his hotel, at any hour he should be pleased to indicate. To this I received no answer, but at the hour I had mentioned, his excellency appeared at my house, in the habiliments and with the equipage of his ministerial character. He said that the king, his master, had ordered him to visit me and ask my opinion of a connection and treaty between Prussia and the United States of America. What a figure should I have made, if I had said, this is all circuitous and informal. Your master, if he wishes a connection. commercial or political, with America, must send an ambassador to Philadelphia, and propose it to congress? Yet Mr. Hamilton's doctrine and reasoning would have required this. The king however would have expected more sense of propriety, more knowledge of the intercourse of nations, and a more rational answer, from a deputy of one of our savage tribes, or one of the migratory hordes of Africa or Tartary.—My answer was, be pleased, sir, to present my most profound respects to his majesty, and inform him, that though I have no commission or instructions to enter into official conferences upon the subject, I am very sensible of the high honor done me by this communication, and have no hesitation in expressing my private opinion that such a connection between the United States and his majesty's dominions would be highly honorable and advantageous, and I had no doubt congress would be unanimous in the same sentiments. That without loss of time I would transmit to them an account of this conversation, and had no doubt they would authorise a minister to treat with his majesty's minister.—The Baron then said he was farther directed to ask my opinion of a proper basis of a treaty. I answered, our treaty lately concluded with Holland, would in my opinion be such a basis.

Congress, when they received this information from me, did not say, this is all informal and indirect; from obscure and unauthorised agents; the king of Prussia must send us an ambassador.—Yet I sent them no official act of the king; no official letter under hand and seal from his prime minister; as Mr. Murray did to me. All was mere parol evidence; mere verbal conversation.—Yet congress immediately sent a commission to Adams, Franklin, and Jefferson, to treat with the king's minister.—The king sent a commission to his minister, and a treaty was negociated, concluded and ratified, which now remains among the archives and printed documents of our country, not at all to her disgrace.

The king had previously ordered his ambassador to express to me his entire satisfaction with the interview between his ambassador and me; that he had maturely examined our treaty with Holland and approved it as a basis of negociotion with him.

Another instance. Mr. Weems, a young gentleman of liberal education, from Virginia or Maryland, went to England in hopes of obtaining holy orders in the church. He wrote a letter to me, as American minister in Holland, though he had never seen me, and indeed has never seen me since, bitterly complaining not only of the stern refusal, but even of the rough treatment he had received from the English bishops, and even from the great Hurd. He desired to know if he could receive ordination from the bishops in Holland. There were no bishops in Holland; but there were protestant bishops in Denmark.—At the first meeting of the ambassadors, I asked Mr. De Saint Saphorin, the ambassador from Denmark, whether an American candidate for the ministry could receive from the bishops in his country episcopal ordination; and whether any oaths, subscriptions or professions of faith would be required; and whether the articles of the church of England were sufficiently conformable to the faith of Denmark? "*Mon Dieu! Jen'en sais rien*"—My God! said St. Saphorin, I know nothing of the matter; but if you desire it, I will soon inform myself. I thanked him, and should be much obliged to him. In a shorter time than I could imagine, he came to inform me that he had written our conversation to the prime minister of his court, who had laid it before the king, who had taken it into consideration in his council, and had ordered it to be laid before the convocation, who had unanimously determined that any American candidate of proper qualifications and good moral character, should at any time receive ordination from any bishop in Denmark, without taking any oath or professing any other faith, but merely subscribing the articles of the church of England. He even went so far as to say that the king, if we desired it, would appoint a bishop in one of his islands in the West Indies to accommodate American candidates. I wrote this to Mr. Weems, and it soon procured him a more polite reception from the English clergy.—Indeed it laid the first foundation not only of Mr. Weems's ordination, but of the whole system of episcopacy in the United States.

I also wrote a history of it to congress, who instead of reprimanding me, ordered me to transmit their thanks to the king of Denmark, which, I did afterwards, through another indirect and informal channel that of his ambassador at the court of London.

It seems that neither St. Saphorin, nor his prime minister, nor the king their master, nor his council, nor the whole convocation of bishops, nor our American congress, were such profound adepts in the law of nations and the diplomatic intercourse of sovereigns, as Mr. Hamilton. None of them discovered that it was inconsistent with their dignity to take notice of any thing less formal and direct than immediate communications from a resident ambassador.

Let me add another example. At the instigation of the count de Vergennes, the Swedish ambassador at Versailles, had written to his court to know whether it would be agreeable to them to form a treaty with the United States. Receiving an answer in the affirmative, he suggested this to Dr. Franklin, who upon this simple verbal insinuation, wrote an account of it to congress, who immediately sent him a commission.—The king of Sweden sent a commission to his ambassador at Versailles. The treaty was concluded at Paris, and afterwards ratified by both powers. Yet no ambassador from Sweden to the United States has ever appeared, and no minister from the United States has ever gone to Sweden to this day.

JOHN ADAMS.

Quincy, May 13, 1809.

GRUBS IN HORSES.

A pint of tar warmed and given to a horse deeply affected by the grubs, is lately recommended as an effectual remedy. It is probable (says the writer,) that this article, by its adhesive quality, may so obstruct their organs of respiration, as to distress the insects, and cause them to loosen themselves from the stomach. It might be well to give half an ounce of aloes about an hour or two after the tar. This last would tend to convey them off before they recover from the embarrassment occasioned by the first.

[*Charleston Times.*

ASTONISHING PERFORMANCE.

The wonderful mare belonging to Mr. Wilson, the Liveryman, which performed 30 miles in one hour and forty minutes, on Thursday finished a task unprecedented in the sporting calleander. The owner of the mare backed her on the 21st ult. for a wager of 200 guineas to go 50 miles in 3 hours and a half being at the rate of 15 miles an hour.—The animal went off in high condition on Thursday, on the Woodford Road, and above 15 miles within an hour, at a steady trot, and continued to do the same in the next two hours; the difficulty in the performance was the last five miles, in the last half hour, which was done in four minutes less than the giving time. Betting was seven to four and two to one against the mare.