IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

THE UNANIMOUS

DECLARATION

OF

THE

THIRTEEN

UNITED

STATES

OF

AMERICA.

WHEN, in the Course of human Events, it becomes neces-
sary for one People to dissolve the Political Band, which
have connected them with others; 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
this Resolution.

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 Government becomes destructive of these
Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to 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 fanci-
ful Speculations; but such a Change has become necessary
when a long Train of Miseries and Oppressions, pursuing
uninterruptedly the same Object, finally overthrows the
Means by which it was supported. The History of the
United States is a History of the repeated Invasions of
foreign Forces; and the recent History of the present King
of Great-Britain is a History of repeatedAgregarations and
Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment
of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this,
it will suffice to enumerate a few of them:

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
Importance, and has made their Administration so difficult
and onerous, that no sensible Benefit was derived from
them.

He has refused to pass other Laws of public import, un-
less they be accompanied with such总nefs and Modifica-
tions as he might judge proper. And he has refused to
approve of Bills for the public good, unless they be accom-
panied with such Total modifications as he thought proper.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the
 Appointment of their Offices, and their Filling up of their
Respective Places.

He has kept among us, in times of Peace, Standing Armies
without the Consent of our Legislature.

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.

We refer to the Journal of the House of Representatives
for the fullest Account of these and other similar Occasions.

John Hancock.

In Congress, January 18, 1777.

The foregoing Copy of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, with the Names of the MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, subscribing the same, is to be sent to each of the United States, and that they be ordered to have the same put on Record.

By Order of CONGRESS,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

John Hancock, President.

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