

July 6. 1775

(8)

The large <sup>sum</sup> strides of late taken by the legislature of Great Britain to <sup>ward</sup> establishing  
~~over~~ these colonies their absolute rule, and the hardness of their present attempt  
to effect by force of arms what by law or right they could never effect, ren-  
ders it necessary for us also to change the ground of opposition, and to close  
with their <sup>last</sup> appeal from reason to arms. And as it behoves those who are called  
to this great decision to be assured that their cause is approved before supreme  
reason, so is it of great avail that it's justice be made known to the world  
whose ~~interests~~ <sup>affections</sup> will ever be ~~unfavorable~~ <sup>take part with those</sup> to a people  
encountering oppression. our forefathers, inhabitants of the island of Gr. Brit<sup>n</sup>  
~~harrassed~~ <sup>they long</sup> ~~having~~ <sup>endeavored</sup> to bear up against the evils of misrule,  
left their native land to seek on these shores a residence for civil &  
religious freedom. at the expence of their blood, <sup>with</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>our</sup> ~~loss~~ <sup>of</sup> their fortunes,  
with the relinquishment of every thing quiet & comfortable in life, they  
effected settlements in the inhospitable wilds of America; they there establish-  
ed civil societies <sup>with</sup> ~~under~~ various forms of constitution, but possessing all  
what is inherent in all, the full & perfect power of legislation. to  
maintain their connection with those <sup>friends</sup> whom they had left ~~and~~ <sup>that</sup> they  
~~arranged~~ <sup>by charters & compact</sup> ~~themselves~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~under~~ <sup>one common</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>king</sup> ~~which~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~became~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>branch</sup>  
~~link~~ <sup>link</sup> ~~uniting~~ <sup>uniting</sup> ~~union~~ <sup>union</sup> ~~between~~ <sup>between</sup> ~~several~~ <sup>several</sup> ~~parts~~ <sup>parts</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~empire~~ <sup>empire</sup>  
~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~secured~~ <sup>secured</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~same~~ <sup>same</sup> ~~purpose~~ <sup>purpose</sup>  
of power by the parlt. of Gr. Brit. ~~have~~ <sup>some</sup> ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> ~~un-~~ <sup>un-</sup>

