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Declaration of Independence.

A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, Thursday July 4th, 1776.

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 to abolish it, and to institute a 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.

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 depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his 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 others 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 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.

For imposing taxes on us without our consent: For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury: For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended 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 at once 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 powers 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 complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and 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 executors of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands. He has excited domestic insurrections among 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 attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them, from time to time, of attempts, 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 ties 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 of conciliation. 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, in 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 independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connexion between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that, 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.

A gunner on board H. M. S. Lyra, in a letter dated Zanzibar, March 28th, to his wife residing at Howth, near Dublin, Ireland, makes the following reference to Dr. Livingstone, the African explorer: "I think I told you in my last letter that Dr. Livingstone had been murdered in the interior by the natives. We have just received the news that there is no truth in it, and that he (Dr. Livingstone) had sent some of his men down to see after his cattle and other articles. I only hope that it is true."

When the Hindoo priest is about to baptize an infant he utters the following beautiful sentiments: "Little baby, thou enterest the world weeping, while all around thee smile. Contrive so to live that thou may depart in smiles, while all around you weep."

General Rawlins's Speech. Major-General Rawlins, a townsman of Gen. Grant, his chief-of-staff and intimate personal friend, recently visited Galena, by home, and at a public reception delivered an address which is supposed by the western papers, we notice, to represent the political sentiments of Gen. Grant as well as Gen. Rawlins.

From this point of view it is likely to attract much attention; and the following summary of it, made by the Chicago Tribune, will interest our readers. Gen. Rawlins affirms: 1. The power and duty of Congress and the President as the law-making power to protect and guard the American Union, and to preserve inviolate the republican form of the national and State governments, and the rights, liberties and property of the whole people.

2. That the condition of the country near the close of the war, and the refusal of the provisional or temporary governments to secure and protect the rights and liberties of the freedmen, demanded of Congress the enactment of the Civil Rights bill, without which these people would have remained subject to all the disabilities, with none of the protections of slavery.

3. That the rebellion was undertaken to establish a government having as its basis the perpetuity of human slavery. In dealing with the rebellion the United States, with great forbearance, during nearly three years, omitted to do what it did do, it destroyed the character of the slave, made him a freeman, and, as such, entitled to equality in political and civil rights with all other freemen. To have given the negroes freedom, without political equality, would have exhibited the anomaly of four millions of freemen, neither citizens nor aliens, subject to the laws, yet not entitled to their full protection.

4. That the governments instituted by the President in the rebel states having failed in almost every essential to adapt the constitutions to the republican form made necessary by the change in the political character of those states, it was the duty of Congress to inquire into these organizations, and finding them both illegal and anti-republican, to refuse their recognition. That it was in the power and it was the duty of Congress to sweep from existence any and all governments in any states which were anti-republican, as these governments in the rebel states were, and to provide for the establishment of other governments therein, of the basis of republican equality.

5. That Congress was correct in its decision that any governments in these states denying suffrage to all freemen, without distinction of race or color, were illegal and anti-republican; and is justified in denying representation to those states until they do grant suffrage to the people without such distinction.

6. The right of suffrage is the only secure means by which any person can protect his liberty, and that it cannot be denied to the colored people, who, in most of the states, if not all, constitute the majority of those who proved steadfast to the Union, and fought in the ranks of its armies, without a denial of the republican principles upon which the government is founded.

7. That the Constitutional Amendment proposed by the last Congress was an indispensable necessity created by the war; that Congress did right in proposing it, and in making its ratification a prerequisite of the recognition of any government in the rebel states. That the amendment in all its parts—the declaration of citizenship, the limitation of representation to those admitted to suffrage, the inviolability of the national debt, the repudiation of the rebel debt, the disfranchisement of those rebels who had added official perjury to treason—was wise and just, and of its necessity there can be no doubt.

8. That the Reconstruction acts of the last Congress were the results of a wise exercise of the unquestionable power of the law-making branch of the government; that the military provisions of the acts are no more violations of liberty than the employment of the army for the suppression of the rebellion, and that the South must accept the situation fully and unreservedly.

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