

# The PENNSYLVANIA EVENING POST.

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TUESDAY, JULY 2, 1776.

[Num. 226.]

PROCEEDINGS of the PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE of COMMITTEES, of the province of PENNSYLVANIA, held at Carpenters-Hall. [Continued from page 320.]

FRIDAY, June 21, 1776.

**A**N address and petition from the Commanders of the thirteen armed Row-gallies, in the service of this province, praying to be heard, on a difference with the Committee of Safety, was presented at the table and read.

Ordered, To lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

Resolved, That Messrs. Moulder, Lollar, Wallace, Hockley, Lowry, Eschard, B. Dupue, M'Pherson, Clarke, Davidson, Cook and Parry, be a Committee to consider of the proper time, place and manner of presenting the same.

A Memorial from the Society of Friends, and the Society of the Friends of the Rights of the People, was presented and read.

The Committee on the Memorial of the Friends of the Rights of the People, reported that they had considered the same, and that they were of opinion that it should be referred to the Committee of Safety, for their consideration.

Resolved, That the Memorial of the Friends of the Rights of the People, be referred to the Committee of Safety, for their consideration.

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tion divers matters relating to the present state of this province.

Ordered to lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

On motion, Ordered, That the Petitions and Addresses from the Commanders of the Row-Gallies, the Patriotic Society, and the Committee of Privates of the Association of the city and liberties of Philadelphia be read a second time, and they were read accordingly.

A paper, being a copy of a minute from the proceedings of the Committee of Safety of this province was read, and is in the words following, viz.

In CONGRESS, June 20, 1776.

Robert Morris, one of the Delegates from the province of Pennsylvania, reminded the Congress that the Assembly

that it is the opinion of this Board that, consistent with the resolve of Congress, no persons but such as are Germans born, or the sons of Germans, should hold any office in said companies.

All such gentlemen, who fall under the above descriptions, and are desirous to enter into the service, are requested to send in their applications as early as may be.

Extract from the minutes,  
WILLIAM GOVETT, Secretary.

This day the CONTINENTAL CONGRESS declared the UNITED COLONIES FREE and INDEPENDENT STATES.

**T**O be SOLD, the brigantine TWO FRIENDS. She is a prime sailer, but three years old, and carries nine hundred and fifty or a thousand barrels of flour.

The schooner MARY ANN. She is a prime sailer, but

and to fix a day for the meeting of the Representatives so chosen, made their report.

On motion Resolved, That this Conference will take into consideration the propriety of dividing all or any of the counties into several districts in which the election shall be held, when the said report shall be considered.

On motion, The said report being read a second time, by paragraphs, was by order recommitted. The Conference then adjourned to eight o'clock tomorrow. [To be continued.]

I N  
C O N G R E S S,  
J U L Y 4, 1776.  
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D E C L A R A T I O N  
B Y T H E  
R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S  
O F T H E  
U N I T E D S T A T E S O F A M E R I C A,  
I N G E N E R A L C O N G R E S S A S S E M B L E D.

**W**HEN 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 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 transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while 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 sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter 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, 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 until his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend 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 many 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 dangers 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 migrations 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 harass 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 our laws; given 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, 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 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 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 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 re-

peated 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 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 concinnity. 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 connection 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.

Signed by ORDER and in BEHALF of the CONGRESS,  
**JOHN HANCOCK**, PRESIDENT.

ATTEST,  
**CHARLES THOMPSON**, Secretary.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

# The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

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 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 transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by overthrowing 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 Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter 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 and plain the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. — To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid Consideration. — 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 inexplicable to them, and parcelled out 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 embarrassing them 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 Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within. — He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Strangers, refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations 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 harass our People, and eat out their Substance. — 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 encouraged us to take up Arms against a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our 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 compelling our Trade with all Parts of the World: — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: — For depriving us in many Cases, of the benefit 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 neighbouring 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 Forms of our Government: — 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 now transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the Works of Death, Desolation and Tyranny, already begun with Circumstances of Cruelty and Insult, 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 Sentinels of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Swords. — He has excited domestic Injuries amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of one Part 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 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 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, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by 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 Connection 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.

Walter Gwinnett	John Hooper	<b>John Hancock</b>	Hub Morris	Samuel Huntington	Jeriah Bartlett
Lymah Hall	Joseph Stoves	Samuel Hoar	Benjamin West	Phil. Livingston	Wm. Mifflin
Geo. Walton	John Penn	10 <sup>th</sup> Para	Benj. Franklin	Joan Lewis	Sam. Adams
		Thos. Mearns	John Norton	Lewis Morris	John Adams
		Gov. Caroll of Maryland	Geo. Clymer		Robt. Treat Paivce
	Edward Rutledge		Ja. Smith		Merige Jarr
			Geo. Taylor		Stor. Hopkins
	Thos. Mifflin		James Wilson	Rich. Stockton	William Ellery
	Arthur Middleton	George Mifflin	Wm. Fitz	Geo. Washington	Roger Sherman
		Richard Henry Lee	Caspar Wray	John Jay	John Hanson
		Th. Jefferson	John Hancock	John Kent	Wm. Willing
		Wm. Harrison	Thos. Mifflin	Abra. Clark	Chas. Carroll
		Th. Nelson			Thos. Mifflin
		James Lightfoot Lee			Robert Morris
		Cart. Braxton			

Stone Declaration Facsimile



