

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 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.

○ thou bright jewel in my aim I strive

To comprehend thee. Thine own words declare

Wisdom is higher than a fool can reach.

I cease to wonder, and no more attempt

Thine height t'explore, or fathom thy profound.

But, ○ my soul, sink not into despair,

Virtue is near thee, and with gentle hand

Would now embrace thee, hovers o'er thine head.

Fain would the heaven-born soul

with her converse,

Then seek, then court her for her promised bliss.

Auspicious queen, thine heavenly pinions spread,

And lead celestial Chastity along;

Lo! now her sacred retinue descends,

Arrayed in glory from the orbs above.

Attend me, Virtue, thro' my youthful years!

O leave me not to the false joys of time!

But guide my steps to endless life and bliss.

Greatness, or Goodness,

say what I shall call thee,

To give an higher appellation still,

Teach me a better strain, a nobler lay,

○ Thou, enthroned with Cherubs

in the realms of day!

Thy various works, imperial queen, we see,

How bright their forms! how deck'd

with pomp by thee!

Thy wond'rous acts in beauteous order stand,

And all attest how potent is thine hand.

From Helicon's refulgent heights attend,

Ye sacred choir, and my attempts befriend:

To tell her glories with a faithful tongue,

Ye blooming graces, triumph in my song.

Now here, now there, the roving Fancy flies,

Till some lov'd object strikes her wand'ring eyes,

Whose silken fetters all the senses bind,

And soft captivity involves the mind.

Imagination! who can sing thy force?

Or who describe the swiftness of thy course?

Soaring through air to find the bright abode,

Th' empyreal palace of the thund'ring God,

We on thy pinions can surpass the wind,

And leave the rolling universe behind:

From star to star the mental optics rove,

Measure the skies, and range the realms above.

There in one view we grasp the mighty whole,

Or with new worlds amaze th' unbounded soul.

23 Oh, love the Lord, all you His saints!

For the Lord preserves the faithful,

And fully repays the proud person.

24 Be of good courage,

And He shall strengthen your heart,

All you who hope in the Lord.

Almighty God, We make our earnest prayer

that Thou wilt keep the United States in

Thy Holy protection; and Thou wilt incline the

hearts of the Citizens to cultivate

a spirit of subordination and obedience to

Government; and entertain a brotherly

affection and love for one another and for

their fellow Citizens of the United States at

large, and particularly for their brethren who

have served in the Field.

And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be

pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love

mercy, and to demean ourselves with that

Charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind

which were the Characteristics of the Divine

Author of our blessed Religion, and without a

humble limitation of whose example in these

things we can never hope to be a happy nation.

Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Flawless his heart and tempered to the core

Who, beckoned by the forward-leaning wave,

First left behind him the firm-footed shore,

And, urged by every nerve of sail and oar,

Steered for the Unknown which gods to

mortals gave,

Of thought and action the mysterious door,

Bugbear of fools, a summons to the brave:

Strength found he in the unsympathizing sun,

And strange stars from beneath the horizon won,

And the dumb ocean pitilessly grave:

High-hearted surely he;

But bolder they who first off-cast

Their moorings from the habitable Past

And ventured chartless on the sea

Of storm-engendering Liberty:

For all earth's width of waters is a span,

And their convulsed existence mere repose,

Matched with the unstable heart of man,

Shoreless in wants, mist-girt in all it knows,

Open to every wind of sect or clan,

And sudden-passionate in ebbs and flows.
