

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.

O 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, O 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,

O 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.

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 imitation

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.