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 Men are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by exposing them.

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 Suffering 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.

It has hitherto been refrained from giving it a. Character it deserves; but, To beFranz already the experience of past years has demonstrated, that attempts which have been made by to correct these Evils, have at best been in part successful, and have very soon been retracted; or have in fact produced little or nothing beneficial to the Object for which they were undertaken; whilst they have大全享受了 of the People.

But, in addition to all this, great Occasions have been given and pretences taken of exposing, in every possible Light, the slavish state into which this people are reduced; and to establish over them an absolute Tyranny.

For some years, the Congress have been at best a constraint on the People, and have frequently been forced to speak of publicUtilities of the People.

In Congress, July 4th, 1776.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, do declare and make known

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 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.

John Hancock, President.