THE

ORIGINAL

Declaration of Independence

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES,

AND

MINIATURE SKETCHES OF THE SIGNERS.

NEW-YORK:
SEAVER & COMPANY,
No. 3, Vesey Street, After Hours.
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1861.
The Union and the Constitution.
In "Continental Congress."

"Resolved, That the consideration of the first Resolution be postponed till the first Monday in July next, and, in the meanwhile, that no time be lost, to cause the Congress agree thereto, a committee be appointed to prepare a declaration, to the effect of the first resolution, which is in these words, to wit — "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."

The above Resolution was unanimously adopted, and on the following day a Committee of five: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, Robert R. Livingston,—appointed for its furtherance. The duty was assigned to Mr. Jefferson, and we herewith present a fac-simile of the original Declaration of Independence, as drawn up by his hand, and submitted by him to the Committee. It received their cordial approval; and, with a few verbal and non-essential alterations made by Dr. Franklin and Mr. Adams, was reported to Congress on the day designated. The character of our work leaves little more to be said by way of introduction, nor need we allude to the debate and amendments which attended its final adoption.

Claiming for the Miniature Biographical Sketches which accompany, no especial merit, we have at the same time aimed to give data and incidents which will be acceptable and of interest to every reader, of those who pledged life and fortune for American Independence, and who first unfurled the standard of Freedom. To enkindle afresh our gratitude for their services—to add yet another tribute to their memory—and to arouse the same patriotic feelings which prompted those "fearless Champions on the side of right—men at whose Declaration Empires trembled," is the wish of

L. S.

* Introduced by Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia, four days previous, and in his eloquent and patriotic advocacy for its adoption, as recorded by Botta, concluded as follows:—"Why then, sir, do we longer delay? Why still deliberate? Let this happy day give birth to an American republic! Let her arise, not to desolate and conquer, but to re-establish the reign of peace and law. The eyes of Europe are fixed upon us; she demands of us a living example of freedom that may exhibit a contrast, in the felicity of the citizen, to the ever-increasing tyranny which desolates her polluted shores. She invites us to prepare an asylum, where the unhappy may find solace, and the persecuted repose. She entreats us to cultivate a propitious soil, where that genuine plant, which first sprang and grew in England, but is now withered by the blasts of Scottish tyranny, may revive and flourish, sheltering under its salubrious and interminable shade all the unfortunate of the human race. If we are not this day willing in our duty to our country, the names of the American legislators of '76 will be placed by posterity at the side of those of Thucydides, of Lycurgus, of Romulus, of Numa, of the three Williams of Nassau, and of all those whose memory has been, and forever will be, dear to virtuous men and good citizens."

While speaking upon the Resolution, a special messenger arrived from Virginia, announcing Mr. Lee to a house of deep affliction. He left Philadelphia the following morning, and before the formation of the Committee, which circumstance fully explains the reason for his not occupying the position assigned to Mr. Jefferson.
A Declaration by the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled.

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 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 & usurpations [begun at a distinguished period &] 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 & to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies, & such is now the necessity which constrains them to [expunge] their former systems of government.

The history of the present King, is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, among which appear no solitary fact to contradict the uniform tenor of the rest [of which] have in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. [For the truth of which we pledge a faith yet unsullied by falsehood]

he has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public peace:

he has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate & pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has neglected to attend to them.

he has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people in the states, unless those people would relinquish the rights of representation in the legislature, a right inestimable to them. Deformidable to tyrants only:

he has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, 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 past to keepfaire elections of representatives:

he has笑着 refusal of a long service in committee of the states, to cause others to be elected

...
wholly 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 & corruptions within:
he has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose
destroking the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others
to encourage their migrations hither; & raising the conditions of new ap-
propriations of lands:
he has suffered the administration of justice totally to cease in some of these
states, refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.
he has made our judges dependant on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices,
the & payment and amount of their salaries:
he has erected a multitude of new offices [by a self-asserted power] & sent hi-
ther swarms of officers to harass our people & eat out their substance:
he has kept among us in times of peace standing armies [wages of war]
he has affected to render the military independent of & superior to the civil power:
he has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitui-
tions and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of
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 of the benefits of trial by jury;
for transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences:
for abusing the privilege of the laws of our country in a neighboring country, abusively changing our arbitrary government
underhanging us in unnecessary & oppressive ways, & sending out of our unexampled & unchristian tyrant for introducing the same into this
state: —— (1776)
Tabulating our most valuable laws for taking away our charter, altering fundamentally the forms of our government, for suspending our own legislature & declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever: by declaring us out of his protection, waging war against us, he has abdicated government here, withdrawing his governors, & declaring us out of his allegiance & protection.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns & destroyed the lives of our people:

Sixth and other: he is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation & tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty & perfidy, never paralleled in the most barbarous ages, & totally discrediting the head of a civilized nation.

He 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 & conditions of existence.

He has incited reasonable insurrections of our fellow-citizens with the allurements of fortune & confiscation of our property.

He has abdicated government against human nature itself, violating it's most sacred rights of liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This inhuman warfare of the Oppressor of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian king of Great Britain determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought & sold; he has prohibited his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce; and that this assemblage of horrors might want no fact...
of distinguished use, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms
among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he had deprived them,
by murdering the people upon whom he also entrusted them: thus paying
off former crimes committed against the liberties of one people, with crimes
which he urges them to commit against the lives of another.

in every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble
and in vain. our repeated petitions have been answered by repeated injuries: a prince
whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit
to be the ruler of a people who mean to be free: future ages will scarce believe
that the hardiness of one man, unadvisedly undertaken within the short compass of twelve years
to found a kingdom by broad strokes, guided, for tyranny
only, over a people founded and fixed in principle
of "freedom.

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 a juris-
diction over these our states: we have reminded them of the circumstances of
our emigration & settlement here, no one of which could warrant so strange a
pretension: that these were effected at the expense of our own blood & treasure,
unassisted by the wealth or the strength of Great Britain: that in constituting
indeed our several forms of government, we had adopted one common king, hereby
laying a foundation for perpetual league & amity with them: that that submission to their
parliament was no part of our constitution, nor ever in idea if history may be
credited: and we appealed to their native justice & magnanimity as well as to the ties
of our common kindred to dismiss these usurpations which were likely to interrupt
connection & correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice &
conscience. Under these circumstances, we must therefore

their laws, of removing from their councils the disturbers of our harmony, they have by their free election re-established them in power. At this very time too they are permitting their chief magistrate to send over not only soldiers of our common blood, but Scotch and foreign mercenaries to invade us. These facts have given the last stab to agonizing affections, and manly spirit bids us renounce forever these unfeeling brethren. We must endeavor to forget our former love for them, and to hold them as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends. We might have been a free and great people together; but a communication of grandeur will make it seem, is below their dignity, be it so. Since they will have it, the road to glory, happiness, is open to us too; we will accept it. Let us embrace our independence, and acquiesce in the necessity which proclaims our peace, and felicity. We shall have found a more merciful master, in peace and friendship. Peace! Peace, dear peace! — Peace, friend.

We therefore the representatives of the United States of America, on the authority of the good people of these States, do, by virtue of the power committed to us, in these words of declaration, resign all allegiance or subjection to the Kings of Great Britain, all others who may hereafter claim by, through, or under them; we utterly dissolve and disband all political connection which may have existed between us and the people or parliament of Great Britain; and finally we do assert and declare these colonies to be free and independent states, and that as free and independent states, they shall 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, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, & our sacred honour.
John Hancock
Rob Morris Lewis Morris
Benjamin Rush
Benj. Franklin
James Wilson
W. T. Ross
John Morton
How Hooper
Joseph Hewes
Rich Stockton
John Penn
Wm Paca
Thos Stone
John Hart
Geo Taylor
Aira Clark
Eve Hoyt
Button Guinns
Chris Livingston
Iaan Lewis
Geo Walton.
MATTHEW THORNTON was born in Ireland in 1734, from which he emigrated while in his minority, and settled in Worcester, Massachusetts. He received a liberal education, and at the age of twenty-two years took rank among the first physicians of his State. Possessing the full confidence and highest regard of the public, he nevertheless voluntarily surrendered them by his opposition to the existing abuses. His popularity with the people was unbounded, and on the abolition of Governor Went was his successor. Upon the resignation of the President of the Provincial Congress he was chosen Speaker of the House, and in the same year was appointed a delegate to the Continental Congress. Dr. Thornton resigned public life in 1782, and retired to his farms in Exeter, where he was blessed with many years, and lived to see his country in the heights of prosperity. Up to his eighty-second year he was never ill a day, but at this time was attacked with whooping-cough, from which he never fully recovered. Dr. Thornton died in 1816, at the age of eighty-nine years.

WILLIAM ELLERY was born at Newport, Rhode Island, December 22d, 1721. He enjoyed unusual advantages in early life, and at the age of twenty years received the highest honors of Harvard College. For nearly a quarter of a century he practiced law with distinguished success, and from which he acquired a fortune. He was uncompromising in asserting and maintaining the rights and privileges of the country. In the late event to the close of the revolutionary struggle, discharged with wonderful success the arduous functions of Finance and of the EXECUTIVE. As a reward for these services, it was his fortune to witness a nation in the full enjoyment of blessings which he had pledged his life and fortune to. Mr. Ellery may be styled the "edifice" signer of the Declaration of Independence. On the morning of his death, he left Tully's Office, and died with cheer in his hands—which event occurred, while sitting in the Senate, February 15, 1806, in the seventy-third year of his age. Mr. Ellery was the first Collector of Newport, in which office he continued about forty years.

ROGER SHERMAN was born in Newton, Massachusetts, April 19, 1721. On the death of his father, and when but nineteen years of age, the support of a large family devolved upon him, all of which, as a bountiful act of a lowly heart, he devotedly discharged. He served with a regular appointment as a soldier in his native town; after which, while engaged in trade, he sustained a fortune in his hand, to New Milford, Connecticut, where he was for a time used industriously at his trade as a journeyman. Mr. Sherman was one of the revolutionary men of the Revolution. With scarcely an open heart in early life for self-interest, he retired from his humble position not only to represent his State, but occupied a position of public trust, for which the nation was unfeignedly grateful. He was one of the Committee appointed to draft the Declaration of Independence. In 1791 he was a member of the Convention of the United States, afterwards became a distinguished jurist, and at the time of his death, July 25th, 1795, was a member of the United States Senate.

SAMUEL ADAMS (next to Hancock the most obnoxious rebel of the revolution) was born in Boston, Massachusetts, September 23d, 1722. He descended from Pilgrim stock, and in early life enjoyed the advantages of wealth and influence. In 1743 he began to boldly assert the rights of the colonies, and was among the first whose advocacy of freedom to the oppressions of the crown. In 1773 Mr. Adams was chosen a representative for Boston in the General Assembly, and during the remainder of his life—nearly forty years—occupied positions of high honor and responsibility. He was among those who secretly talked the plan of calling a General Congress; was one of the five delegates appointed to that Congress, and after the appointment of a Convention of Congress until 1776. Soon after retiring from Congress, he was elected to the first post of the State, and as up to the close of his life, he was annually re-elected. Mr. Adams died October 5, 1803, in the eighty-fifth year of age. There are many incidents in the history of this self-sacrificing and inflexible patriot of rare interest.

ROGER BENTLEY—This distinguished patriot was born in New Hampshire, in 1743. He was one of the most successful students of Harvard College, which he entered at the age of nineteen years. During his early life he visited England, and upon his return entered the ministry, which, however, was soon relinquished for the legal profession, and of which he soon acquired a high rank and eminence. Prominent and uncompromising among those who denounced the abuses of the home government, he entered upon the arena of the Revolution, and in Boston held the most important responsibilities. From being elected a member of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts in 1774, he continued uninterruptedly in the public service. As legislator and jurist he was equally successful, and faithfully discharged the trust and confidence reposed in him by his countrymen up to the close of his eventful life, which occurred in May, 1814, at the age of eighty-four years. Mr. Paine retired from the Bench of the Supreme Court of his native State about ten years previous to his death.

ELIZABETH GERRY was born in Marblehead, Massachusetts, on the 17th July, 1734. The son of an opulent merchant, he enjoyed every facility, and was a distinguished graduate of Harvard College in 1752. Soon after he was appointed to a post upon mercantile life, and not only amassed a fortune, but by his unselfish character gained the highest regard and confidence of his fellow citizens. Active in opposition to the increasing influence of Great Britain, he was elected a member of the first Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, and was a member of the same at the time of the battle of Bunker Hill—the night preceding which, he and General Warren slept in the same bed. In 1760 Mr. Gerry was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress, and continued in place of high trust and honor through life. His political career was long and full of event. He was re-elected every term, and at one time was the only delegate from the State. He was a member of the Convention of the United States. He was admitted to the Congressional Cemetery at Washington, and a monument erected to his memory by Congress.

STEPHEN HOPKINS was born at Scituate, Rhode Island, March 7, 1739. At the age of twenty years he left the sea to go to Providence, and in a few years had acquired a competency. The year following he was elected a representative in the General Assembly, of which body he continued a member for nearly twenty years, and most of the time, without a competitor. A military mind and a strong character secured the highest regard and confidence of his fellow citizens. Active in opposition to the increasing influence of Great Britain, he was elected a member of the first Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, and was a member of the same at the time of the battle of Bunker Hill—the night preceding which, he and General Warren slept in the same bed. In 1760 Mr. Gerry was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress, and continued in place of high trust and honor through life. His political career was long and full of event. He was re-elected every term, and at one time was the only delegate from the State. He was a member of the Convention of the United States. He was admitted to the Congressional Cemetery at Washington, and a monument erected to his memory by Congress.

OLIVER WOLCOTT was born at Windsor, Connecticut, November 4, 1726. He entered Yale College at the age of seventeen years, and engaged in merchandising in his native town. In the same year entered upon the study of medicine with a distinguished success, and in the year 1750 he was elected a member of the Provincial Congress, and was sent to Congress to represent the Convention of the United States. He was a member of the Congress of the United States, and lived to witness his countrymen in the full enjoyment of the independence which he had so long labored for. His death occurred December 1, 1797, and while serving as Governor of Connecticut, he was attacked with consumption, which terminated his life in the forty-sixth year of his age. He died August 2, 1811, at the age eighty-one years.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS was born at Lebanon, Connecticut, April 18, 1721. At the age of twenty years he was a distinguished graduate of Harvard College, and commenced the study of law with his father, who was then the Judge of the Probate Court of Connecticut, and was pastor of a Congregational Society in Lebanon. He soon after abandoned the study of law, and was appointed a Judge of the Inferior Court of the State, and afterwards so distinguished on the bench, in Congress, and as a member of the Convention of the United States. After the close of the Revolution, he was appointed a member of the United States Senate. He was chosen a member of the House of Representatives in the Convention of the United States, and afterwards became a distinguished jurist, and at the time of his death, July 25th, 1795, was a member of the United States Senate.

WILLIAM ELLERY was born at Newport, Rhode Island, December 22d, 1721. He enjoyed unusual advantages in early life, and at the age of twenty years received the highest honors of Harvard College. For nearly a quarter of a century he practiced law with distinguished success, and from which he acquired a fortune. He was uncompromising in asserting and maintaining the rights and privileges of the country. In the late event to the close of the revolutionary struggle, discharged with wonderful success the arduous functions of Finance and of the EXECUTIVE. As a reward for these services, it was his fortune to witness a nation in the full enjoyment of blessings which he had pledged his life and fortune to. Mr. Ellery may be styled the "edifice" signer of the Declaration of Independence. On the morning of his death, he left Tully's Office, and died with cheer in his hands—which event occurred, while sitting in the Senate, February 15, 1806, in the seventy-third year of his age. Mr. Ellery was the first Collector of Newport, in which office he continued about forty years.
WILLIAM FLOYD was born at Sayneck, Long Island, December 11, 1734. He was the youngest of the first seven children of his family, and was educated in the schools of his native town in which he was born. From the age of 16 he was a merchant in the city of New York. At the age of 21 he entered the University of Pennsylvania, and in 1754 he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He was soon made a partner in the firm of John and William Johnson, and in 1757 he was elected to the General Assembly of the Province of New York. He was a member of the convention that framed the constitution of the State of New York, and was a delegate to the federal convention that framed the Constitution of the United States. He was a member of the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1776, and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was a member of the New York Convention that framed the constitution of the State of New York, and was a delegate to the federal convention that framed the Constitution of the United States. He was a member of the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1776, and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was a member of the New York Convention that framed the constitution of the State of New York, and was a delegate to the federal convention that framed the Constitution of the United States. He was a member of the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1776, and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON was born at Albany, N.Y., January 17, 1717. He was the son of the Rev. John Livingston, and was educated at the College of New Jersey. He was a member of the Continental Congress from 1775 to 1777, and was a delegate to the constitutional convention of New York in 1777. He was a member of the New York Convention that framed the constitution of the State of New York, and was a delegate to the federal convention that framed the Constitution of the United States. He was a member of the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1776, and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was a member of the New York Convention that framed the constitution of the State of New York, and was a delegate to the federal convention that framed the Constitution of the United States. He was a member of the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1776, and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was a member of the New York Convention that framed the constitution of the State of New York, and was a delegate to the federal convention that framed the Constitution of the United States. He was a member of the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1776, and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

FRANCIS HOPKINSON was born in Philadelphia, Pa., in the year 1728. He was the son of the Rev. Thomas Hopkinson, and was educated at the College of New Jersey. He was a member of the Continental Congress from 1775 to 1777, and was a delegate to the constitutional convention of New York in 1777. He was a member of the New York Convention that framed the constitution of the State of New York, and was a delegate to the federal convention that framed the Constitution of the United States. He was a member of the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1776, and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was a member of the New York Convention that framed the constitution of the State of New York, and was a delegate to the federal convention that framed the Constitution of the United States. He was a member of the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1776, and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was a member of the New York Convention that framed the constitution of the State of New York, and was a delegate to the federal convention that framed the Constitution of the United States. He was a member of the Continental Congress from 1774 to 1776, and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.
BENJAMIN RUSH was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, December 24th, 1745. He entered Princeton College in 1765, and was graduated with distinction. In 1768 he received a diploma of medicine from the University of Edinburgh, with which he returned to America, and after studying with Dr. Redman, of Philadelphia, he visited Europe, attending there the medical schools of the leading institutions, and returned home in 1770, bearing with him a diploma conferred on him at Edinburgh by the Royal College of Physicians of Scotland. His medical practice in Philadelphia with the greatest success, and rapidly gained the respect and esteem of all classes, both for his skill. Dr. Rush was elected to Congress in 1776, and signed the Declaration. In 1783 the yellow fever began its fatal work in Philadelphia. Dr. Rush devoted all his days and the part of a good Samaritan, displaying a self-sacrificing devotion to the welfare of the community. He died, October 19th, 1813, in the sixty-seventh year of his age.

JOHN MORTON, of Swedish descent, was born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1725. He received a good education, and at an early age showed a proficieny in study, quite remarkable. In 1764 he signed public life, being chosen a Justice of the Peace, a member of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania and a Speaker of the House. He was a delegate to Congress in 1776, to the Stamp Act Congress, and in 1786 High Sheriff of the county where he resided. In 1786-1787 he was a member of the General Congress, in which latter year he signed the declaration. He exhibited profound talents in every office he sustained, and a wonderful activity in labor. Mr. Morton died in April, 1782, in the thirty-fourth year of his age, near the close of our great national deliverance. While in Congress the committee to which he was appointed from Pennsylvania was equally divided in opinion upon the question of Independence, and Mr. Morton was the only man able to tell the committee at every session. He died, April 17th, 1782, and the nation lost an orator and was deprived of the benefit of his services.

GEORGE CLYMER was born in Philadelphia in 1729. He entered early on a commercial life, and continued in the same until 1752. In 1752 he was appointed a member of Congress one of the Committee of the Whole, and in 1756 elected to the General Congress, and signed the Declaration. He was a colonel in the American Revolution, and in 1789 was elected a delegate to Congress, and in 1790 he was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, which office he held until his death. He died, March 27th, 1794, in the sixty-fifth year of his age.

JAMES SMITH was born in Ireland in 1729, emigrating to this country when quite young. He was educated in his native country and his intellect matured in mere boyhood. He chose the law for his profession, and in 1753 he was admitted to the bar. In 1754 he was appointed a member of the Congress of the United States, and he signed the Declaration. While in Congress, he was a member of the Committee of the Whole, and in 1776 he was appointed a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, which office he held until his death. He died, September 22nd, 1785, in the sixty-seventh year of his age.

GEORGE TAYLOR was born in Ireland in 1716 and came to this country, when twenty years of age. After a short apprenticeship in a woolen manufacturing establishment at Durham, Pennsylvania, he erected out of funds brought him in a matrimonial alliance, a large woollen mill in Northumberland Co., acquiring a competency by his business and intellectual qualities, he was elected to the provincial General Assembly in 1741, and re-elected in 1744, 1746, and 1750, for twenty successive years, and Governor of the State for three terms or periods of the office until 1757. As Governor, at a meeting of the citizens of Philadelphia at the time the city was threatened with an attack by the Indians, he was present in the resignation of Oliver Wolcott, Mr. McKeans was chosen President, and upon resigning the position, received the thanks of last hour of his life. He died, June 25th, 1751, aged eighty-four years.

JAMES WILSON was born in Scotland and emigrated to this country in 1733. His first business was that of a teacher of Phi- lomelippic. After studying the legal science and the law, he became acquainted with Dr. Redman, of Philadelphia, attended there the lectures of the leading physicians, and used his medical practice in Philadelphia with the greatest success, and rapidly gained the respect and esteem of all classes, both for his skill. In 1756 he was chosen a member of the General Congress, and continued with the same body as a member until the date of his death. In 1759 he was elected a member of Congress, and in 1760 he was appointed a member of the provincial Congress, and in 1764, a member of the General Congress, and in 1766, of the provincial Congress. He died, January 17th, 1798, in the eighty-second year of his age.

GEORGE ROSS was born in New Castle, Delaware, in 1728. After receiving the rudiments of an education, he entered upon the practice of law, at the age of twenty-one, and established himself at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1754. He was elected a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1766 and for several successive years. In 1776, Mr. Ross was appointed a judge of the Court of Admiralty for Pennsylvania, in which office he served until his death. He was an orator and an eloquent speaker, and was a member of the American Philosophical Society, and was the author of several books, and a contributor to the Pennsylvania Magazine. He died, May 14th, 1785, in the fifty-eighth year of his age.
Saul. Chase was born in Somerset county, Maryland, April 17, 1741. At eighteen years of age he commenced the study of law at Annapolis, and, at the age of twenty, was admitted to practice before the Mayor's Court, and at twenty-two became a member of the House of Delegates. In 1767, he was also elected a Justice of the Peace and served in this capacity for over twenty years. In 1774, he was a member of the Provincial Congress, and in 1776 he was chosen as one of the delegates to the Provincial Convention that drafted the Declaration of Independence. He was a member of the Continental Congress and served in the Senate of the United States for ten years. He died in 1811.

Richard Henry Lee was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, January 20th, 1732. His education was begun in England, but he was brought back to the United States at the end of the Old Dominion. During his youth and early life he devoted himself to literary pursuits and was a prominent figure in Virginia society. He became a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1762 and served as Speaker of the House. In 1769, he was elected to the Continental Congress and served as a delegate for over twenty years. He was a staunch supporter of American independence and was one of the authors of the Declaration of Independence. He was a member of the Virginia Convention that drafted the Virginia Constitution and served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787. He died in 1808.

Benjamin Harrison was born in Berkeley, Virginia, in 1773. He attended the University of Virginia and later served as a delegate to the Virginia Convention that drafted the Virginia Constitution. In 1796, he was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates and served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787. He was a charter member of the Virginia Senate and served as its President. He later served as a United States Senator and was a strong supporter of the Union. He died in 1841.

Thomas Nelson, Jr., was born in Yorktown, Virginia, December 26th, 1738. In his fifteenth year he was sent to England to be educated, and after a short stay in Edinburgh, he entered Trinity College, Cambridge, having for his tutor Dr. Porteus, afterwards Bishop of London. In 1758 he returned to America and, in 1774, under the name of Agricola, he was elected a member of the House of Burgesses of Virginia. He was a delegate to the Virginia Convention that drafted the Virginia Constitution and served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787. He died in 1808.

Francis Lightfoot Lee, a younger brother of Richard Henry Lee, was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, on October 16th, 1744. He was educated at the University of Virginia and later served as a delegate to the Virginia Convention that drafted the Virginia Constitution. In 1790, he was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates and served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787. He died in 1808.
WILLIAM HOOPER was born in Boston, Mass., June 17, 1742. He graduated at Harvard College in 1760, and after- wards studied law with James Otis. In 1767 he removed to North Carolina and rose rapidly in his profession, standing at the head of the bar in that state. In the midst of his public career, he was branded as a royalist, but soon gained a reputation for disinterestedness and patriotism. In 1769 he was elected to the Provincial Assembly of North Carolina, and in the fall was appointed a judge of the superior court. He was elected in 1770, 1771, 1772, and 1776; in the latter year signing the Declaration. Like all the signers, Mr. Hooper became exceedingly conversant to the British, who sought every opportunity to molest him and his family. After the war had ended, Mr. Hooper resumed the practice of his profession, and withdrew from public life. In 1782 he was appointed by Congress a judge of the Federal Court established for the adjudication of the differences between himself and New York. He died in October, 1786, aged forty-eight years.

JOSEPH HENWS, of Quaker parentage, was born in Kingston, New York, January 7, 1717. In 1735 he entered the University of Pennsylvania, and graduated in 1739. He entered upon commercial life at Philadelphia. At the age of thirty years he removed to Kingston, New York, and established himself in business, in which he amassed a large fortune. In 1750 he was elected to the Legislature of that province, and re-elected in 1751 and 1752. He practiced in a legal capacity. He was prominent in the general politics of the province, and was a member of Congress for the period from 1775 to 1783, when he was re-elected the same office, and the province was removed to his seat. He died in New York, May 17, 1809, leaving a large fortune.

JOHN PENN was born in Carolina county, Virginia, May 17th, 1731. His early education was of a meager sort, and not attended to. His knowledge was acquired by his own efforts and studies. He studied law, and at the age of twenty-one was elected a member of the House of Burgesses. At the age of twenty-five he was elected a member of the Provincial Convention. He was a member of Congress for the years 1775 and 1776, and signed the Declaration of Independence. In 1779 he again took his seat in Congress, remaining however, but a few months. He died November 18th, 1783, in the thirty-fourth year of his age, leaving a widow and two children, and his funeral was largely attended by governmental dignitaries and other friends.

EDWARD RUTLEDGE was born in Charleston, S. C., in 1727. He received a good education at the academy attached to the College of New Jersey. He graduated in 1747, and entered upon the study of law, and at the age of twenty-one was elected a member of the House of Representatives. He was a member of Congress for the years 1775 and 1776, and signed the Declaration of Independence. He was re-elected the same office in 1783. In 1778 Mr. Rutledge was appointed by the Continental Congress a member of the Committee of Foreign Affairs. He died on the twenty-third of January, 1809.

THOMAS HAYWARD was born in St. Luke's parish, South Carolina, in 1716. He had every advantage in education, and was sent to the College of New Jersey, and graduated in 1734. He entered upon the study of law, and at the age of twenty-one was elected a member of the House of Representatives. He was a member of Congress for the years 1775 and 1776, and signed the Declaration of Independence. He was repeatedly re-elected the same office, and died on the 13th of July, 1800.

THOMAS LYNCH, Jr., was born in Prince George's parish, South Carolina, August 8th, 1724. At the age of thirteen, he was sent to England for an education, learning there in 1746 at Eton School and Cambridge University. On leaving college, he became a lawyer, and entered upon the practice of his profession. In 1752 he was elected to the South Carolina Assembly, in which he was elected in 1756 and 1758. In 1762 he was elected to the Provincial Congress, and in 1772 to the Provincial Convention. He was an able and eloquent orator, and was one of the ablest literary men of his time. He died in 1787, aged forty-five years.

ETHIE MIDDLETON was born at Middleton Place, South Carolina, in 1728. He was educated in the usual manner, and entered upon the practice of his profession. He was a member of Congress for the years 1775 and 1776, and signed the Declaration of Independence. He died in 1783, aged forty-five years.

BUTTON GWINNETT was born in Georgia, in 1722. He entered the South Carolina Assembly, and was a member of Congress for the years 1775 and 1776, and signed the Declaration of Independence. He was a member of Congress for the years 1777 and 1778, and signed the Declaration of Independence. He died in 1783, aged forty-five years.

GEORGE WALTON was born in Frederick county, Virginia, in 1729. His early education was very limited, and at four- teen he was sent to study law. In spite of the unfavorable surroundings of his boyhood, he made steady progress in his studies, and by the time he was twenty years of age he was admitted to the bar. He was a member of Congress for the years 1775 and 1776, and signed the Declaration of Independence. He was a member of Congress for the years 1777 and 1778, and signed the Declaration of Independence. He died in 1783, aged forty-five years.
ARTICLE I.

Section 1. All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen...
time of the treasury of the United States, and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and control of the Congress.

No State shall, without the consent of Congress, lay any duty of tonnage, impose any duty of embargoes, or grant letters of mar-


cipation, or enter into any agreement or compact with another State, or with a foreign power, or engage in any War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

ARTICLE II

Section 1. The Executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States, who shall hold his office four years, and, together with the Vice-President, chosen for the same term.

Each State shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in Congress; but no Senator or Representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two persons, of whom one at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same State with themselves; and they shall, on the second Monday in December, transmit their votes, sealed and signed, to the President of the Senate, directed to the President of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the votes shall then be counted. The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the President; but, if no person have such number, then from the two highest persons voting for President, the Senate shall choose the President, and from the two highest persons voting for Vice-President, the House of Representatives shall choose the Vice-President, having each State as one vote.

This Congress shall have power, by law, to provide for the punishment of treason, but no Attendant of Treason shall work corruption of office, or forfeiture, during the life of the person convicted.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. The judicial power of the United States shall be vested in a supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their offices during good behavior, and shall, at stated times, receive for their services a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

Section 2. The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or shall be made, under their authority;—to all cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be party; to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction;—to controversies between two or more States, between a State and citizens of another State;—between citizens of different States;—between a State and citizens of the same State claiming lands under grants of different States; and between a State, or the citizens thereof and foreign States, citizens, or subjects.

In all cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be party, the Supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other cases before mentioned, the Supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, and such exceptions as under such regulations as the Congress shall make.

The trial of all crimes, except in cases of Impeachment, shall be by jury; and, in every trial, the accused shall enjoy the right of being confronted with the witnesses against him, and of having the assistance of counsel for his defense.

The Congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, public law, or forfeiture, during the life of the person convicted.

Section 1. Full faith and credit shall be given in each State to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other State, and the Congress may by general law prescribe the manner in which such acts, records, and judicial proceedings, from all States, shall be admitted in evidence. In every State shall be such rule for granting compensation for errors of�
AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

Articles, in addition to, and Amendment of, the Constitution of the United States of America, adopted pursuant to the Fifth Article of the Original Constitution.

ARTICLE I.
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

ARTICLE II.
A well-regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

ARTICLE III.
No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

ARTICLE IV.
The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrant shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

ARTICLE V.
No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation.

ARTICLE VI.
In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

ARTICLE VII.
In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

ARTICLE VIII.
Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

ARTICLE IX.
The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

ARTICLE X.
The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

ARTICLE XI.
The judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by citizens of another State, or by citizens or subjects of any foreign State.

ARTICLE XII.
The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same State with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; — The President of the Senate shall, in presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted; — The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers, not exceeding three, on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately by ballot the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by States, the representation from each State having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a number of members from two-thirds of the States and a majority of all the States shall be necessary to a choice. If no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of a majority of the whole number of Senators; and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President, shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

Note.—The Constitution was adopted on the 17th September, 1787, by the Convention appointed in pursuance of the Resolution of the Congress of the Confederation, of the 21st February, 1787, and ratified by the Conventions of the several States, as follows: Delaware, December 7th, 1787; Pennsylvania, December 12th, 1787; New Jersey, December 18th, 1787; Georgia, January 2d, 1788; Connecticut, January 9th, 1788; Massachusetts, February 6th, 1788; Maryland, April 28th, 1788; South Carolina, May 29th, 1788; New Hampshire, June 21st, 1788; Virginia, June 26th, 1788; New York, July 26th, 1788; North Carolina, Nov. 21st, 1789; Rhode Island, May 29th, 1790.

*The first ten of the Amendments were proposed September 25, 1789, and ratified December 15, 1791; the eleventh, January 8, 1790, the twelfth, September 25, 1804.*
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE,

AS AMENDED AND ADOPTED BY CONGRESS.

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

Whereas, 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 this 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. 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 system 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 till assent should be given; 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 indestructible 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; and have, by the right of the people, been restored to the legislatures.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass laws for establishing judic peace; refusing 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 indestructible to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judic peace; and by refusing 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 indestructible to them and formidable to tyrants only.

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 combined with others, to subject us to 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 committed by them in the act of(tuple)

For entreating, them with a mock trial, from punishment for any murders committed by them in the act of violence.

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 state, and substituting therein an arbitrary government, and by force and violence taking away our charters;

For abolishing the free system of English laws, in a neighboring state, and substituting therein an arbitrary government, and by force and violence taking away our charters;

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 dissolved 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 commenced with so much cruelty and perfidy as to have totally deformed the image of mankind, 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 own 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 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 a ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have called a Congress to address them, and, by various means, have attempted to obtain their favors; but in vain. They are at this time engaged in a war against the people of Great Britain — a war inspired and conducted by the dehants — for demanding of their countrymen property, seized from them by an unacknowledged and illegal authority.

We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity; and, 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 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 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, 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 muttually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.