

When in the Course of human events, it
dissolve the political bands which have
connected them with another, and
assume among the powers of the earth,
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