DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

WhBn, 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,
nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that
to the separation.
We hold these
mel able rights; that endowed by their liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are institu ted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes dostish it and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shal seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence indeed, will dict and trovent causes; and, accordingly, all not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all expe-
rience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the form to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuse and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a de sign to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is foir duty, to throw off such government the patient sufferance o these colonies, and such is now the necessity which constrains the to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present king of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and solute tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be sub-
He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.
oren his Governors to pass laws of immediate and sent should be obtained; 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 legis
formidable to tyrants only.
He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, un for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance records,
He has dissoived representative houses repeatedly, for opposing, with manly firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people.
He has refusected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable o annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise the State remaining, in the meantime, exposed to all the dangers o
He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose, obstructing the laws for naturalization of forcigners; re-
the conditions of new appropriations of lands.
He has obstructed the administration of justice by refusing his
assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.
He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of
their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.
of officers to harass our people, and to eat out their substance.
the consent of our legislature.
He has affected to render the military independent of, and superio
He has combined, with others, to subject us to a jurisdiction for-
eign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving
For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:
For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment, for any murders which they should cominit on the inhabitants of
For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world:
For cutting of anes on us without our consent :
For imposing tase
For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefit of trial by jury :
For transporting us beyond seas of English laws in a neighboring province, and establishing therein arbitrary governmenple and fit in strument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies For taking a altering, füdamentally, the powers of our governments:
For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themsel
vested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.
He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his pro
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 mercena ries, to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun, with circumstances of cruelty, and perfidy scarcely parallel
ed in the most barbarous ages, 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 execution He has excited domestic insurrection among us, and has endea savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruc tion, of all ages, sexes, and conditions.
In every stage of these opprescion, we have petitioned for redress only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marke free people. bee wanting our attention to our British brethren We have warned them from time to time, of attempts made by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable juis ic emigration and tlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them, by the ties of our common kindred, to dibavow and correspondence. They, too, háve been deaf to the voice of justice and consanguinity. We must therefore



