

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established -2-
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 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.