

Declaration of Independence.

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

Thomas Jefferson. A distinguished statesman and philosopher—a native of Virginia; born April, 1743; educated at William and Mary; and studied law under that distinguished civilian and patriot, Chancellor Wythe. In his 26th year, a distinguished member of the Virginia legislature, in 1773 appointed a member of the "committee of correspondence," the most efficient body in directing and maturing the material from which sprang the revolution; elected to congress 1775, re-elected 1776. Member of the committee which drafted the declaration, consisting of Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Sherman and Livingston, and as chairman made the original draft, conformable to which, 23d June, he introduced a resolution "that these states are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states," which was seconded by John Adams, and unanimously passed 4th July, '76. Governor of Virginia '76-'84 minister to France, which station he held until appointed secretary of state by president Washington, '89; vice president United States '97, and president 1801, which place he held eight years. In the 83d year of his age, on the 50th anniversary of our independence, he died at Monticello, the seat of his fathers, having filled the highest offices and enjoyed the greatest honors within the gift of his countrymen.

Benjamin Franklin.—A printer, philosopher and statesman, a native of Boston; born 17th January, 1709. At the age of 30 appointed clerk to the general assembly, and postmaster at Philadelphia, at 33 a member of the assembly. About this time he identified electricity and lightning to be the same, by drawing the lightning from the clouds, and many other ingenious experiments; commissioner to Great Britain from the colonies, examined before the bar of the house of commons with great credit to himself; elected 1775 and '76 member of congress; one of the committee to hear propositions of reconciliation; commissioner to France in the 71st year of his age; concluded a treaty with that power in 1778; and in 1782 concluded a treaty with Great Britain, by which the war was terminated and our independence acknowledged; elected to the high honor of foreign associate of the academy of science, at Paris, in 1781. After his return to America, he was president of the commonwealth, and of the state convention which adopted the new constitution. After a long life, spent in the most active and useful pursuits, he died in his 84th year, 27th April, 1790.

Francis Hopkinson.—A lawyer, and a man of elegant literary attainments; a native of Philadelphia; born 1737. A member of congress 1776, and voted and subscribed the declaration. He died in his 53d year, 9th May 1791.

Robert Treat Payne, L. L. D.—A lawyer of eminence, a native of Boston, born 1731. For several years past a member of the legislature of Massachusetts; a member of the provincial congress, 1774; a member of the first and second general congress; a member of the committee of five to consider the state of Massachusetts, and supreme judge; died 11th May, 1814, aged 84.

Thomas Haywood.—Born in the parish of St. Lukes, South Carolina, 1749. Educated in America, studied law in the Middle Temple, London, spent several years on a tour through Europe; 1775 and '76 a member of congress; afterwards a supreme judge of his native state; was wounded at Beaufort; taken prisoner at Charleston; was in the state convention for forming a new constitution, 1670; died March, 1809.

Benjamin Rush, M. D.—Born near Philadelphia, 24th December, 1745. A physician of great eminence; studied at Edinburgh, Paris and London; his name is written as indelibly if possible, on the scroll of medical fame, as on the declaration of our rights. A most successful teacher in medicine; in 1812 not less than 430 pupils attended his lectures; he was successively chosen professor of chemistry, of the theory and practice of medicine, of the practice of physic. Chosen in July a delegate to congress, he was not present when the declaration was adopted, but signed it on taking his seat; a member, also, of the Pennsylvania convention to form and adopt her constitution. Died 19th April, 1813.

William Hooper.—A lawyer of eminence, born in Boston, 1742, and educated at Harvard college. Removed early to North Carolina; a representative to the general assembly for several years; a member of congress of 1774; and the succeeding until the adopting and signing of the declaration; a judge to settle the dispute between New York and Massachusetts. Died, October, 1790, in the 48th year of his age; having retired several years previous from the cares of public life into the joys of domestic happiness.

Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, only surviving signer, at this time, (1829) was born September, 1737, at Annapolis, Md. Being of Roman Catholic descent, he commenced his education at St.

Omers, Great Britain, and finished it at Rheims, France; studied law in Paris & London; an active and efficient newspaper writer in favour of the cause of the colonies. Being a Roman Catholic of education and fortune, was selected as one of the committee to visit Canada, early in 1776, to make overtures to the Catholics of that province to join the colonies. During this tour, the declaration was adopted, but was promptly signed on his return on the 2d of August: soon after a member of the board of war; in 1801, retired from public life, after having been a member of the first committee of safety and observation; twice in the convention of Maryland; twice a delegate in congress; once a senator in the United States senate—and four times in that of his native state.

Cesar Rodney, born in Dover Delaware, 1730; a member of the legislature several years; a member of congress 1774; continued until '75; an active leader in the war upon the tented field; a general in the army; and the intimate friend of Washington.

Benjamin Harrison, a native of Berkley, Virginia; the descendant of a very respectable, ancient and wealthy family; early a member of the provincial legislature; a member of the first congress, and of those succeeding, until the honor of voting for and signing the declaration; a member of the committee of safety; chairman of the "board of war." After resigning his seat in congress, a member and president of the colonial assembly; governor of Virginia in 1782; and re-elected the year following. Died 1791, at his residence, honored and respected by his countrymen.

William Paca, a fine scholar and an eminent jurist; born 1740, at Wye-Hall, Eastern shore, Maryland; a member of the first and several succeeding congresses. Immediately after voting for and signing the declaration, elected a member of the "navy board;" twice governor of Maryland, and twice chief justice on the bench of her judiciary. Died 1799, aged 65 years.

Arthur Middleton, a fine scholar, having taken the baccalaurate degree of A. B. at Westminster, England, and a gentleman of fine fortune; born in S. Carolina, 1743; spent two years in a tour through Europe; a member of the "secret committee of five," in 1775; a member of congress in '76, took an active part in the war; a soldier; taken prisoner at Charleston, and sent as such to St. Augustine; suffered with the rest of his fellow prisoners great hardships; elected again to congress, 1782. Departed for the better country beyond the grave, at his country seat, on the Ashly, aged 45.

Elbridge Gerry, was born July 1744, at Marblehead, Massachusetts. Took his degree of A. B. in the 18th year, at Harvard—a merchant by profession; a member of the new committee of safety for Mass., an active and efficient leader during the revolution. He spent the evening previous to the battle of Bunker's Hill with a few of his friends, in a house not far from the road to Lexington, among whom, was the brave and early lamented general Warren; on parting in the morning with the general for the scene of danger, this brave man, all devotion to his country, dropped these classic words,—"Dulce et decorum est, pro patria mori"—before this night was an example. A member of congress of '76; a member of the convention which formed the new constitution; minister to France; several times governor of Mass.; vice president of the U. States in 1812. Died 23d November, 1814, on his road to Washington as vice president of the U. States, aged 70 years.

George Ross was born in Newcastle, Del. in 1739. A scholar; became a lawyer of eminence after he removed to Lancaster, Pennsylvania; a member of the legislature of Penn. as early as 1768; a member of the first congress, and of the three succeeding; several times a member of the state legislature; a member of the board of admiralty of Penn. Died July 1779, aged 49 years.

John Adams, a lawyer and statesman of great eminence, was born at Quincy, Mass. 19th October, O. S. 1735, of puritan parents; a writer and active leader preparatory to the adopting and signing the declaration; a member of the first committee of safety for Boston; had the honor of nominating gen. Washington to congress, as commander-in-chief of the American armies; and of making the motion to adopt the declaration, which he supported and advocated with his powerful eloquence; a member of the first and many succeeding congresses. Some idea may be formed of his business habits when it is stated that he was a member of ninety committees, and chairman of 25; commissioner to France in 1771, and minister to the same power in 1781, and minister to England in 1785; a member of the convention which formed the constitution of his native state; vice president of the U. States twice, and president once; retired from public life in 1801, and about 4 o'clock, P. M. on the fiftieth anniversary of our independence, he expired, in the 91st year of his age.

Richard Henry Lee, a native of Virginia, and an elegant scholar, was born 20th January, 1732.—Like many of the distinguished men of his time, he was educated in England; he, early in our struggle, became a political writer; and in the hour of peril, a soldier; early a member of the house of burgesses, of Va. a polished and elegant speaker, he was called the Cicero of America; a member of the first congress; he first introduced a motion in congress, 10th June 1776, "that these United colonies were and of right ought to be free and independent states." Being called away by sickness in his family, Mr. Jefferson was appointed in his place on the committee to which the resolution was referred; and filling the vacancy of the mover, Mr. Jefferson became chairman, and thus became draftsman of that instrument which has so justly given celebrity to his name. Once president in congress; he died in the 64th year of his age, loaded with the honors of his countrymen.

Francis Lightfoot Lee, youngest brother to R. H. Lee, a man of fine abilities, and extensive information, though not much inferior in education and eloquence to his brother; several years a member of the house of burgesses; several times a member of congress, from Richmond, the metropolis of his state; a member of the senate of his native state. The particulars of his death are not recorded by his biographer.

Samuel Chase, a lawyer and jurist of great eminence, was a native of Md. born 17th April 1741. Early a member of the colonial assembly; a member of the first and four succeeding congresses; a member of the mission to Canada, in '76, with Charles Carroll and Dr. Franklin; at his suggestion, the convention of Md. rescinded their instructions to their representatives, not to vote for declaring the colonies independent; the early patron and benefactor of the distinguished William Pinckney; a member of the Maryland convention which adopted the new constitution; chief justice of Md. and appointed by Washington an associate judge of the U. States court.

Samuel Adams, a native of Boston, a fine scholar, a merchant by profession, was born 23d September, 1722. He reported the first resolution to the citizens of Boston, denying the right of the mother country to tax the colonies against their consent for purposes of revenue; a political writer of eminence; a member of congress eight times; a member of the convention which formed the constitution of his state; and of the convention which adopted the constitution of the United States; lieutenant governor and gov. of Massachusetts; one of the proscribed patriots, whom the British authorities proclaimed beyond the reach of pardon. Died, 3d Oct. 1803, in his 82d year.

John Hancock, a scholar and a man of immense wealth, was born near Quincy, Mass. 1735. A member of the general court; chosen speaker, and rejected by the governor; acted with Samuel Adams in remonstrating against the massacre by the soldiers on the 5th March, 1770, and in procuring the removal of the troops from the city. On the 3th March the year following, pronounced his celebrated speech on the massacre occasion; was one of the proscribed patriots with Samuel Adams. A member of the first congress; and president of the second and third, in which capacity he signed the Declaration of Independence, which separated the colonies from the mother country for ever; governor of his native state, a series of times. He spent large sums of his ample fortune in benevolent charities; and was "gathered to his fathers" in a ripe old age, loved, revered and lamented.

From the National Intelligencer.

OUR INDIAN TRIBES.

We have received from the hands of a friend a printed pamphlet, containing an account of the recent formation and proceedings of an association in the city of New York, for the emigration, preservation, and improvement of the aborigines of America, together with an address delivered before the association, by Thomas L. McKenney, esq. chief of the office of Indian affairs, in the war department, and various letters and official documents relating to the concerns of the Indians, the objects of the association, &c.

We have not room for the interesting and sensible address of Mr. McKenney, nor for any more of the correspondence, at present, than the subjoined letters, which we select, on account of the official character of one of them, and its formal elucidation of the views of the executive, in relation to those of the Indian tribes which remain within the limits of some of the states:

To the president of the United States.

NEW YORK, Aug. 14, 1829.

Sir: The condition of the Indian tribes, and their present relations to the general and state governments, have occasioned among the friends of those interesting people, feelings of deep anxiety, and awakened a disposition among various citizens of the union, to harmonize, if possible, the present discordant relations, and in a way that shall secure to the Indians peace and prosperity for the future. Participating in this common feeling, an association of citizens of various denominations has been formed, with a view of contributing to ends so important.

The principles on which the association proposes to act and be governed, are disclosed in the accompanying documents, which embrace the preliminary proceedings, the origin of the association, and the constitution of the board.

By a resolution therein, you will perceive that it is made my duty to communicate, for the information, and with a view to obtain the approbation and co-operation of the executive, a copy of those proceedings to you.

The board look with confidence to the executive of the United States, for such patronage as it may have the power to bestow; and with deep anxiety to the congress, to whom it doubts not the executive will submit the subject for those ways and means upon which reliance is placed for the promotion of its benevolent intentions.

I am, most respectfully, your obedient servant.

ELI BALDWIN,

Corresponding secretary of the Indian board, &c.

To the rev. Eli Baldwin.

RIP RAIS, VA. AUGUST 25, 1829.

Sir—Last evening, by the steam boat Norfolk, from Baltimore, your letter to the President was received at this place, with a transcript of the Constitution, relating to the Indians, recently adopted at New York by your Convention. With the course pursued at your meeting, the President is much gratified, and desires me so to declare to you.—He cannot but appreciate highly the views taken by you of a course of policy, which justice to principles recognized, and humanity towards our Indian brethren, constrained him as matter of conceived duty to adopt. He regrets that so many inaccuracies both as to object and motive, should have found a place in the public Journals of the day, evidently misrepresenting, and calculated to produce incorrect impressions. The great consolation entertained by him though, is, that time will prove that his only end, and object, and purpose, is to do full and impartial justice, to the extent that his official discharge of duty will sanction.

I beg leave to assure you, that nothing of a compulsory course, to effect the removal of this unfortunate race of people, has ever been thought of by the President, although it has been so asserted. The considerations which controlled, in the course pursued, were such as he really and in fact believed, were required, as well by a regard for the just rights which the State of Georgia was authorized to assert, as from a conscientious conviction, that by it, humanity towards the Indians would more effectually be subserved. Of this they have been assured, and in that assurance, no other disposition was had than to explain fully to them, and the country, the actual ground on which it was believed they were rightfully entitled to stand.

How can the United States Government contest with Georgia the authority to regulate her own internal affairs? If the doctrine every where maintained be true, that a State is sovereign, so far as by the constitution adopted it has not been parted with to the General Government, then must follow, as a matter of certainty, that within the limits of a State there can be none other, than her own sovereign power, that can claim to exercise the functions of government. It is certainly contrary to every idea entertained of an independent government, for any other to assert adverse dominion and authority within her jurisdictional limits, they are things that cannot exist together.

Between the State of Georgia and the Indian tribes within her limits, no compact or agreement was ever entered into;—who then is to yield, for it is certain in the ordinary course of exercised authority, that one or the other must? The answer heretofore presented from the Government, and which you, by your adoption, have sanctioned as correct, is the only one that can be offered. Georgia, by her acknowledged confederative authority, may legally and rightfully go-

vern and control throughout her own limits, or else our knowledge of the science and principles of government, as they relate to our own forms, are wrong, & had have been wholly misunderstood.

Sympathy indulged is a noble and generous trait of character; but it should never assume a form calculated to outrage settled principles, or to produce in the end a greater evil that it would remedy. Admit it were in the disposition of the Government at Washington to hold a course and language different from that they have hitherto employed; and to encourage the Indians to the belief that rightfully they may remain and exercise civil government in despite of Georgia?—Do those who are the advocates of such a course, and consider it reconcilable to propriety, dream of the consequences to which it would lead; or consider after what manner so strange an idea could be put in practice? Have they looked to the State of Georgia, conscious in the rectitude of our own construction of right, demanding of the U. S. their constitutional authority to interfere, and appealing to the States to sustain her against encroachments, which, if submitted to, might, in the end, prove destructive to the whole? If nothing else can be traced through such an appeal and in such an issue, I think the good and the humane may at least perceive that in it peril is to be discerned, and that the weak and undisciplined Indians, in such a contest would be so utterly destroyed, that the places which now know them, would presently know them no more.

From the conversations had with the President, recently and formerly, on the subject of the Indians, I am satisfied, that no man in the country entertains towards them better feelings, or has a stronger desire to see them placed in that condition, which may conduce to their advancement and happiness. But to encourage them to the idea, that within the confines of a state, they may exercise all the forms and requisites of a government, fashioned to their own condition and necessities, he does not consider can be advantageous to them, or that the exercise of such a right can properly be conceded.—What would the authorities of the state of N. York say to an attempt on the part of the Six Nations, to establish within her limits, a separate & independent government; and yet their authority to do so, would be as undeniable as that of the Creeks or Cherokees, within the territories of Georgia or Alabama? Would they agree that the Indian law of retaliation on the next of kin, should be enforced for the accidental killing of one of their tribe? Or, that nothing of trade and commerce, by her citizens, should take place within their limits, except in conformity to the provisions of their municipal code?—Would they assent to have their citizens rendered liable to be arraigned at the bar of an Indian court of justice, and to have meted out to them the penalties of their criminal code? It is obvious, that no State of this Union would grant such authority. Concede, however, that these Indians are entitled to be considered sovereign within their own limits, and you concede every thing else as matter of consequence. Admit the principle, and all is admitted—and what then?—The sword, the alone arbiter in any community, where questions of adverse sovereignty and power are to be settled, would, in the end, have to be appealed to; and, when this shall be the case, the humblest prophet in our land cannot but discern what will be the *fruit* of the contest. Is it not preferable, and does not their own peace, quiet and happiness demand they should surrender, at once, such visionary opinions, and by retiring beyond the Mississippi, place themselves where every conflict, as to state authority, will cease; and where the most enlarged and generous efforts, by the Government, will be made to improve their minds, better their condition, and aid them in their efforts of self government? For your efforts, and those associated with you in convention, furthering this liberal and only practical scheme, the time will come when all good and generous men will thank you.

In conclusion the President desires me to thank you for the communication made to him, and to offer you an assurance, that every legitimate power of his will be freely bestowed to further and assist the laudable and humane course which your convention has adopted.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant.

JOHN H. EATON.

Died, in the Augusta, Maine, jail, Henry McCausland, aged seventy years, of which he had been imprisoned for thirty five. He was insane—and under an impression that his sins could only be pardoned by making some great sacrifice, he murdered a woman and burned a church. He was tried for murder, but his insanity being evident, he was kept in solitary confinement.

At Litchfield, Conn. court, an action was brought by the daughter of Samuel Griswold, of Winchester, against her father, for beating and otherwise mistreating her—and after a full investigation of the case, the jury brought in a verdict against him for \$1500.