

render *make*

abdicated *given up*

perfidy *violation of trust*

insurrections *rebellions*

petitioned for redress *asked formally for a correction of wrongs*

unwarrantable jurisdiction *unjustified authority*

consanguinity *originating from the same ancestor*

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
neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary
government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to **render**
it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the
same absolute rule into these Colonies:
For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valu-
able Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our
Governments:
For suspending our own Legislature, and declaring them-
selves invested with Power to legislate for us in all cases
whatsoever.
He has **abdicated** 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 compleat the works of death, desolation and
tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty &
perfidy scarcely paralleled 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 executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall
themselves by their Hands.
He has excited domestic **insurrections** amongst us, and has
endeavoured 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 the ruler of a free People.
Nor have We been wanting in attention to our British
brethren. We have warned them from time to time of
attempts by their legislature to extend an **unwarrantable**
jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the cir-
cumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have
appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we
have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to
disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably inter-
rupt our connections and correspondence. They too have
been deaf to the voice of justice and of **consanguinity**. We
must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces
our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of man-
kind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.