“These are the times that try men’s souls!”

Thomas Paine, 1776:

1774 – After failing at everything in England, Paine is sent by Ben Franklin to be editor of Pennsylvania Magazine.

1776 – Writes a famous booklet, Common Sense. Sold 120,000 copies in three months. 1 in 20 read it.

1777 – Wrote the first of 16 American Crisis papers, to encourage the troops fighting in the field.

1791 – Moved to France, wrote The Rights of Man, in English. Elected to the French congress and imprisoned.

1784 – Wrote The Age of Reason, a defense of deism. Universally derided as a Christian-hater.

1802 – Dies in America, friendless.
“These are the times that try men’s souls!”
“These are the times that try men’s souls!”
"These are the times that try men's souls!"

THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated. Britain, with an army to enforce her tyranny, has declared that she has a right (not only to TAX) but "to BIND us in ALL CASES WHATSOEVER" and if being bound in that manner, is not slavery, then is there not such a thing as slavery upon earth. Even the expression is impious; for so unlimited a power can belong only to God.
2. “These are the times that try men’s souls!”

Whether the independence of the continent was declared too soon, or delayed too long, I will not now enter into as an argument; my own simple opinion is, that had it been eight months earlier, it would have been much better. We did not make a proper use of last winter, neither could we, while we were in a dependent state. However, the fault, if it were one, was all our own; we have none to blame but ourselves. But no great deal is lost yet. All that Howe has been doing for this month past, is rather a ravage than a conquest, which the spirit of the Jerseys, a year ago, would have quickly repulsed, and which time and a little resolution will soon recover.
I have as little superstition in me as any man living, but my secret opinion has ever been, and still is, that God Almighty will not give up a people to military destruction, or leave them unsupportedly to perish, who have so earnestly and so repeatedly sought to avoid the calamities of war, by every decent method which wisdom could invent. Neither have I so much of the infidel in me, as to suppose that He has relinquished the government of the world, and given us up to the care of devils; and as I do not, I cannot see on what grounds the king of Britain can look up to heaven for help against us: a common murderer, a highwayman, or a house-breaker, has as good a pretence as he.
4.

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I shall not now attempt to give all the particulars of our retreat to the Delaware; suffice it for the present to say, that both officers and men, though greatly harassed and fatigued, frequently without rest, covering, or provision, the inevitable consequences of a long retreat, bore it with a manly and martial spirit. All their wishes centered in one, which was, that the country would turn out and help them to drive the enemy back. Voltaire has remarked that King William never appeared to full advantage but in difficulties and in action; the same remark may be made on General Washington, for the character fits him. There is a natural firmness in some minds which cannot be unlocked by trifles, but which, when unlocked, discovers a cabinet of fortitude, and I reckon it among those kind of public blessings, which we do not immediately see, that God hath blessed him with uninterrupted health, and given him a mind that can even flourish upon care.
“These are the times that try men’s souls!”

I shall conclude this paper with some miscellaneous remarks on the state of our affairs, and shall begin with asking the following question: Why is it that the enemy have left the New England provinces, and made these middle ones the seat of war? The answer is easy: New England is not infested with Tories, and we are. I have been tender in raising the cry against these men, and used numberless arguments to show them their danger, but it will not do to sacrifice a world either to their folly or their baseness. The period is now arrived, in which either they or we must change our sentiments, or one or both must fall. And what is a Tory? Good God! What is he? I should not be afraid to go with a hundred Whigs against a thousand Tories, were they to attempt to get into arms. ‘Every Tory is a coward; for servile, slavish, self-interested fear is the foundation of Toryism, and a man under such influence, though he may be cruel, never can be brave.”
“These are the times that try men’s souls!”

Important Themes:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.
“We hold these truths to be self-evident…”

Thomas Jefferson, 1776:
• Founder of the University of Virginia
• Writer of Virginia’s Acts of Tolerance
• Jeffersonian democracy
• Creator of “states’ rights”
• 3rd President of the United States
• Borrowed, stole, quoted, made up the Declaration of Independence
• Died on July 4, 1826, the same day as…
“We hold these truths to be self-evident…”
“We hold these truths to be self-evident…”

**Three main parts:**

1. **Preamble and Declaration of Natural Rights:**
   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.

2. **List of Grievances (against George III)**

3. **Resolution of Independence**
“We hold these truths to be self-evident…”
“We hold these truths to be self-evident…”

When 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, the separate and equal station to which 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…”

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.
“We hold these truths to be self-evident...”

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.
E. Pluribus Unum

Other business on July 4, 1776:
Appointing ambassadors
Signing treaties
Borrowing money from foreign countries
Creating a new flag and great seal

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_flag
E. Pluribus Unum

“Out of many, one”
E. Pluribus Unum

“He has furthered our endeavors”

“A new order of the ages”
“I only Regret that I Have but One Life to Give for my Country”

Two noteworthy spies:

1) Benedict Arnold, a successful but frustrated American general, who agreed to hand over the fort at West Point to the British. When word got out that he was under suspicion, he hopped off to join their cause. Only his spymaster, Major Andre, was captured and hanged to death.

2) Nathan Hale, the American inept showoff. He got into spying, against the advice of all of his friends, saying “I want to be useful.” When caught he proudly confessed his work and cheerfully was martyred on the gallows on September 21, saying “I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country.”