

The United Empire Loyalist By Rev. LeRoy Hooker

What did they then, those loyal men,
When Britain's cause was lost?
Did they consent,
And dwell content
Where Crown, and Law, and Parliament
Were trampled in the dust.

Dear were their homes where they were born;
Where slept their honoured dead:
And rich and wide
On every side
The fruitful acres spread;
But dearer to their faithful hearts
Than home, or gold, or lands,
Were Britain's laws, and Britain's crown,
And Britain's flag of long renown,
And grip of British hands.

They would not spurn the glorious old
To grasp the gaudy new.
Of yesterday's rebellion born
They held the upstart power in scorn --
To Britain they stood true.

With high resolve they looked their last
On home and native land;
And sore they wept,
O'er those that slept
In honoured graves that must be kept
By grace of stranger's hand.

They looked their last and got them out
Into the wilderness,
The stern old wilderness!
All dark and rude
And unsubdued;
The savage wilderness!

Source: As cited in *Loyalist Patriotic Verse*, Toronto: 1885, p. 63; edited by Marijan Salopek.
<<http://victoria.tc.ca/history/etext/loyalist.verse.html>>. Public domain.

From a speech on the Stamp Act in Virginia, March 23, 1775
by Patrick Henry

Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace-- but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!

Extract from the United States Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

