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DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

ON this Independence Day, July 4, 2005, I am recalling the event of import that took place 229 years ago. That, of course, was our Declaration of Independence, a voice heard round the world.

On the centennial of that memorable occasion another event took place whose world changing import has not yet been recognized.

C.S.A. Founded

On July 4, 1876, seven individuals gathered to establish another great forward step for all mankind. Its constitution and strict by-laws were written by the Leader and Teacher, Mary Baker Glover. That was the founding of the Christian Scientists' Association. The preamble to its constitution reads as follows:

This association was organized in the summer of 1876, on the centennial day of our Nation's Independence.

Christian Science and purely mental healing were founded in 1866 by Mrs. Mary Baker Glover, author of "Science and Health," published in 1875. Said author gave to Christianity its new name after her discovery, to wit: that a Divine principle and given rule applicable to every condition of man, and constituting the Divine plan of his salvation from sin, sickness, and death exist in the order of eternal Life, Truth, and Love, and that Jesus demonstrated for man's example and his redemption, this holy principle of Divine Science, healing the sick, casting out devils, error, and raising the dead; clearly showing by this divine understanding and proof, the indivisibility of Science and Christianity.

Back to July 4, 1776. That momentous day has been memorialized by the American artist, John Trumbull, in his famous painting, "Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776."

John Trumbull

Trumbull was a young man in 1776, and his father, governor of Connecticut from 1769 to 1784, was a strong supporter of the patriots. The Revolutionary War heroes were the inspiration for Trumbull's painting. He spent five years making portraits of individuals he intended including in his scene paintings.

In his depiction of the Continental Congress the president of the Congress, John Hancock, sits at the right. The five committee members named to draft the Declaration of Independence stand before him. They are, from left to right, John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert R. Livingston, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin.



Our Declaration

Their Declaration of Independence, which is now ours, begins:

In Congress, July 4, 1776. The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,... and it ends: 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 intention, do, in the Name and by the 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;...

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.

The brave men who signed that priceless document knew it was a call to arms and that they were making

themselves targets But they loved freedom and their country more than a human sense of life.

Many of the names of the more than fifty signers are familiar to Americans today. More are less familiar, and some are practically unknown.

Dr. Rush

One of the less familiar names was a young medical doctor from Philadelphia, Dr. Benjamin Rush. Dr. Rush was a fifth generation American, a graduate of Princeton, who got his medical degree at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1768.

In his memoirs, *Travels Through Life*, written for the use of his children, Rush remarks in retrospect: "I review the time I spent in the service of my country with pleasure and pain. ...I was animated constantly by a belief that I was acting for the benefit of the whole world, and of future ages, by assisting in the formation of new means of political order and general happiness. Whether my belief as far as it relates to the last great object will be realized, or not, is yet a secret..."

Medical Freedom

Dr. Rush's name is destined to become more familiar to future generations. He succeeded Benjamin Franklin as the president of the Pennsylvania Society for the Abolition of Slavery. He was also a founder of the Philadelphia Bible Society, advocating the use of scripture in the public schools. In 1787 he was a member of the State Convention which ratified our United States Constitution. At that time he stated: "Unless we put medical freedom into the Constitution, the time will come when medicine will organize into an undercover

dictatorship, to restrict the art of healing to one class of men, and deny equal privileges to others...all such laws are despotic and un-American, and have no place in a republic."

Dr. Rush was famous for many years and will be so again to posterity — mainly because his name appears in Science and Health. On page 162 Mrs. Eddy writes: "With due respect for the faculty, I kindly quote from Dr. Benjamin Rush, the famous Philadelphia teacher of medical practice. He declared that 'it is impossible to calculate the mischief which Hippocrates has done, by first marking Nature with his name, and afterward letting her loose upon sick people.'"

Unity of Good

Benjamin Rush *believed* that he was acting for the benefit of the whole world and for future ages. We know today that he and the rest of the delegates at the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, were so doing. The heart of the action of the delegates from the thirteen colonies was *unity*. By uniting they gave a new name to these united Colonies; and the United States of America soon became the wonder of the world.

A century later Mary Baker Eddy (then Glover) *knew* that she was God-directed in giving Christianity its new name and in *uniting* Christian Scientists.

The dragon has never ceased fighting to disunite these United States. This same devil would divide Christian Scientists and cause them to criticize one another that evil might displace the unity of good destined to liberate all mankind.

The 1776 Declaration unsheathed the sword for the cause of "liberty and justice for all." The physical war that

ensued continued for seven long years. But the mental war has not yet ended. "The...sword of the Spirit is drawn; nor will it be sheathed till Truth shall reign triumphant over all the earth." (My 185:8)