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DECLARATION
OF
INDEPENDENCE



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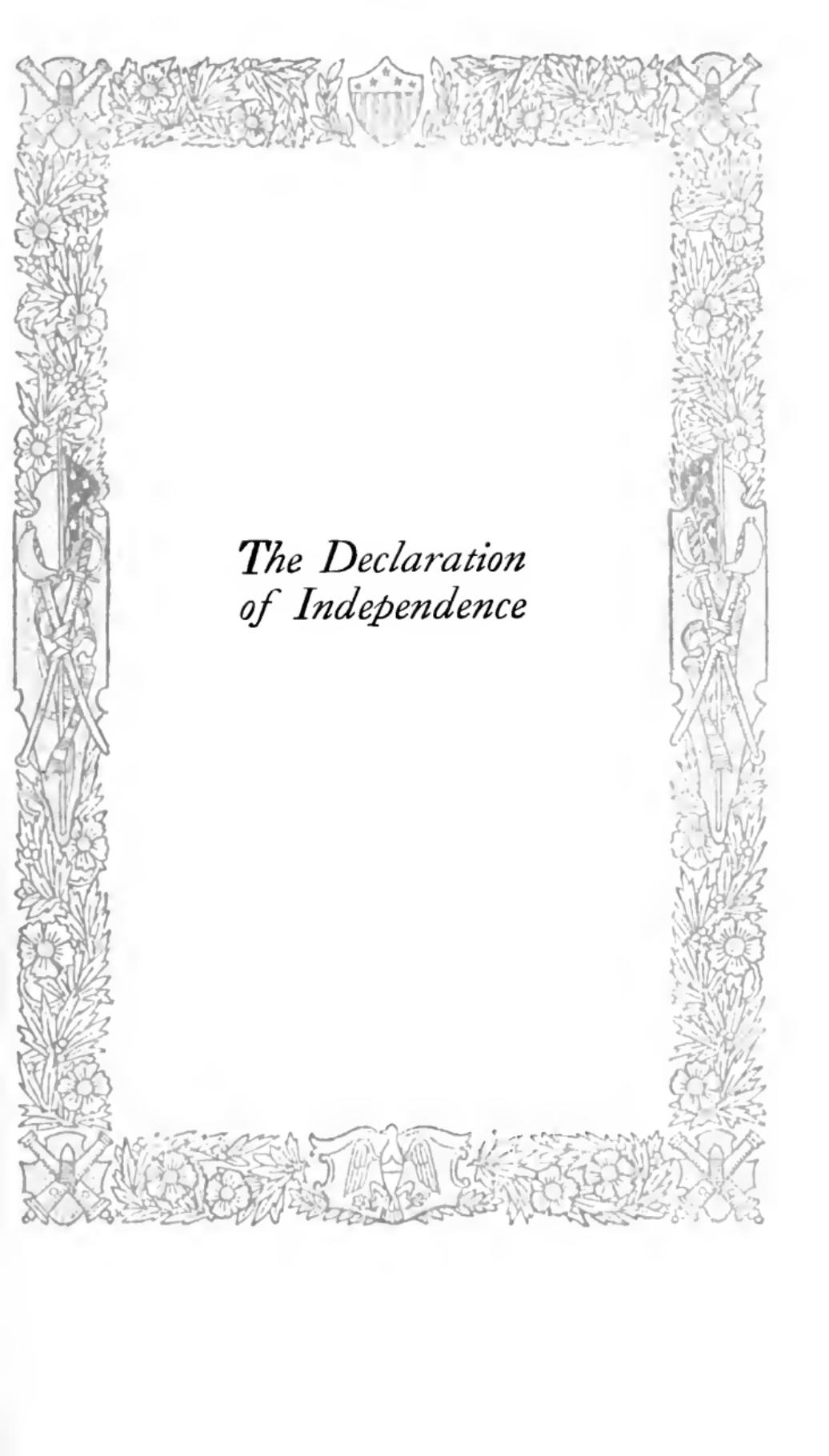
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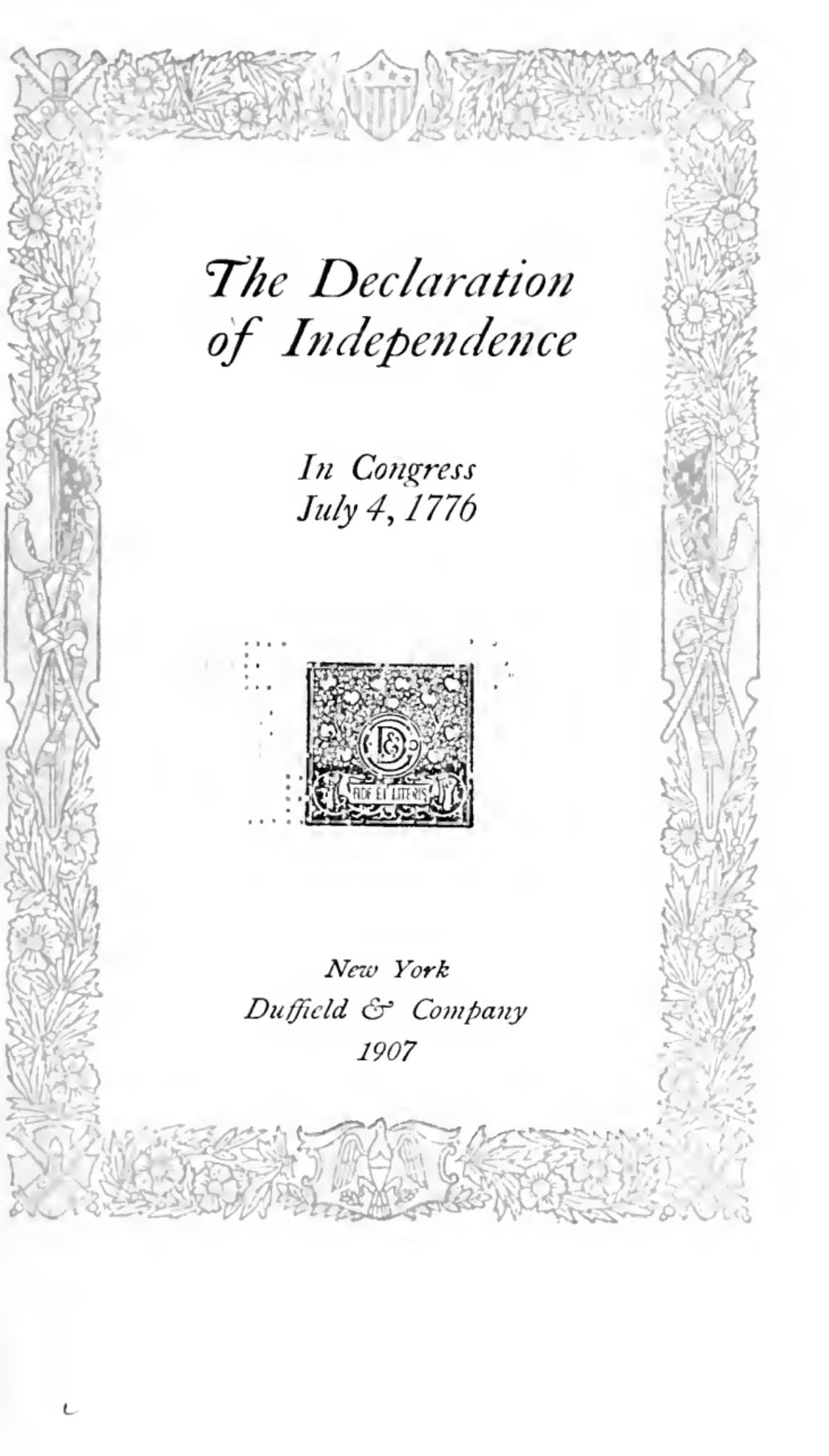
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A decorative border surrounds the page, featuring floral patterns, crossed tools, and a central shield with stars. The border is composed of repeating motifs of flowers, leaves, and symbols of industry and agriculture, such as crossed tools and a shield with stars.

*The Declaration
of Independence*

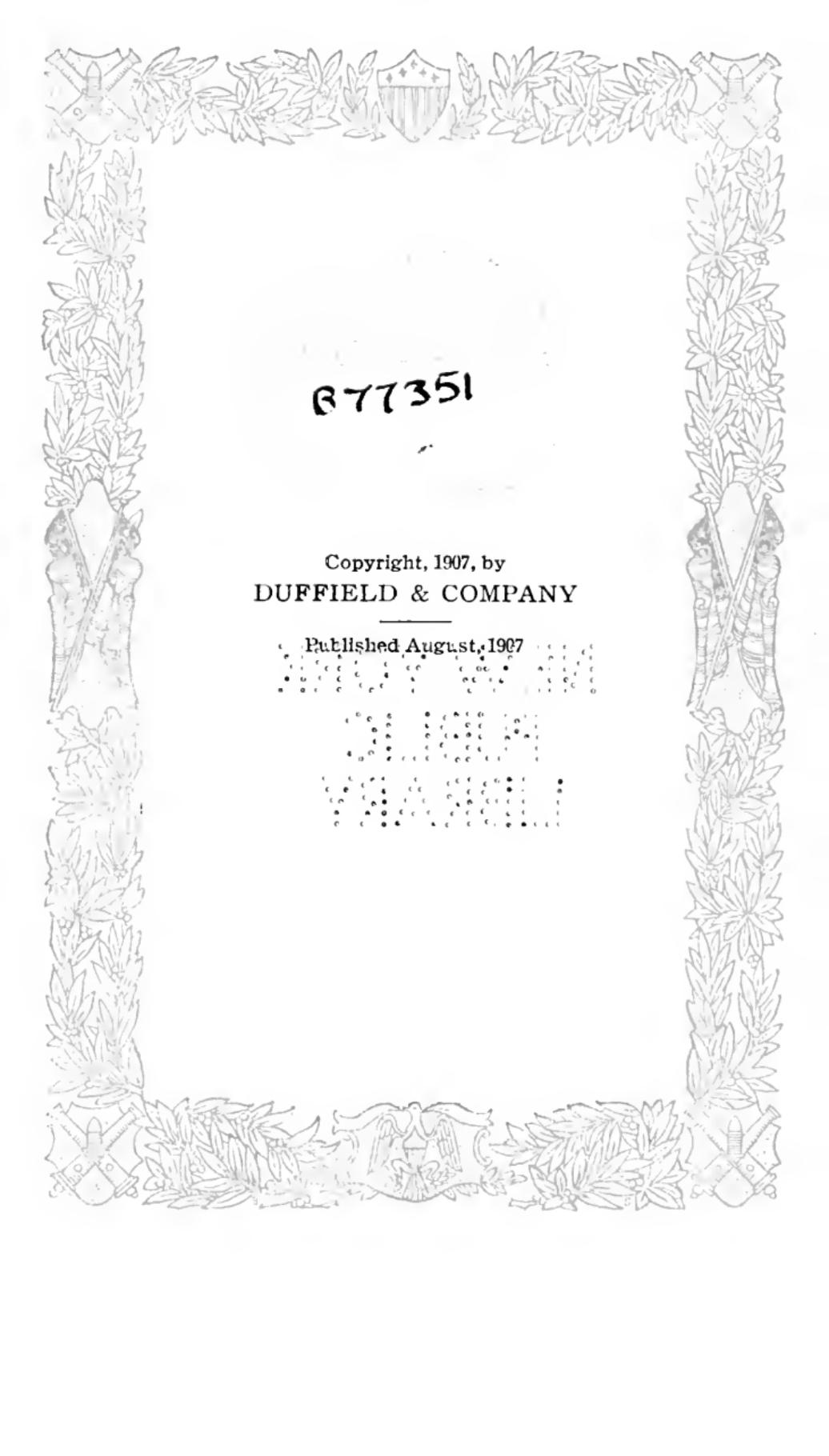


*The Declaration
of Independence*

*In Congress
July 4, 1776*



*New York
Duffield & Company
1907*



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Published August, 1907

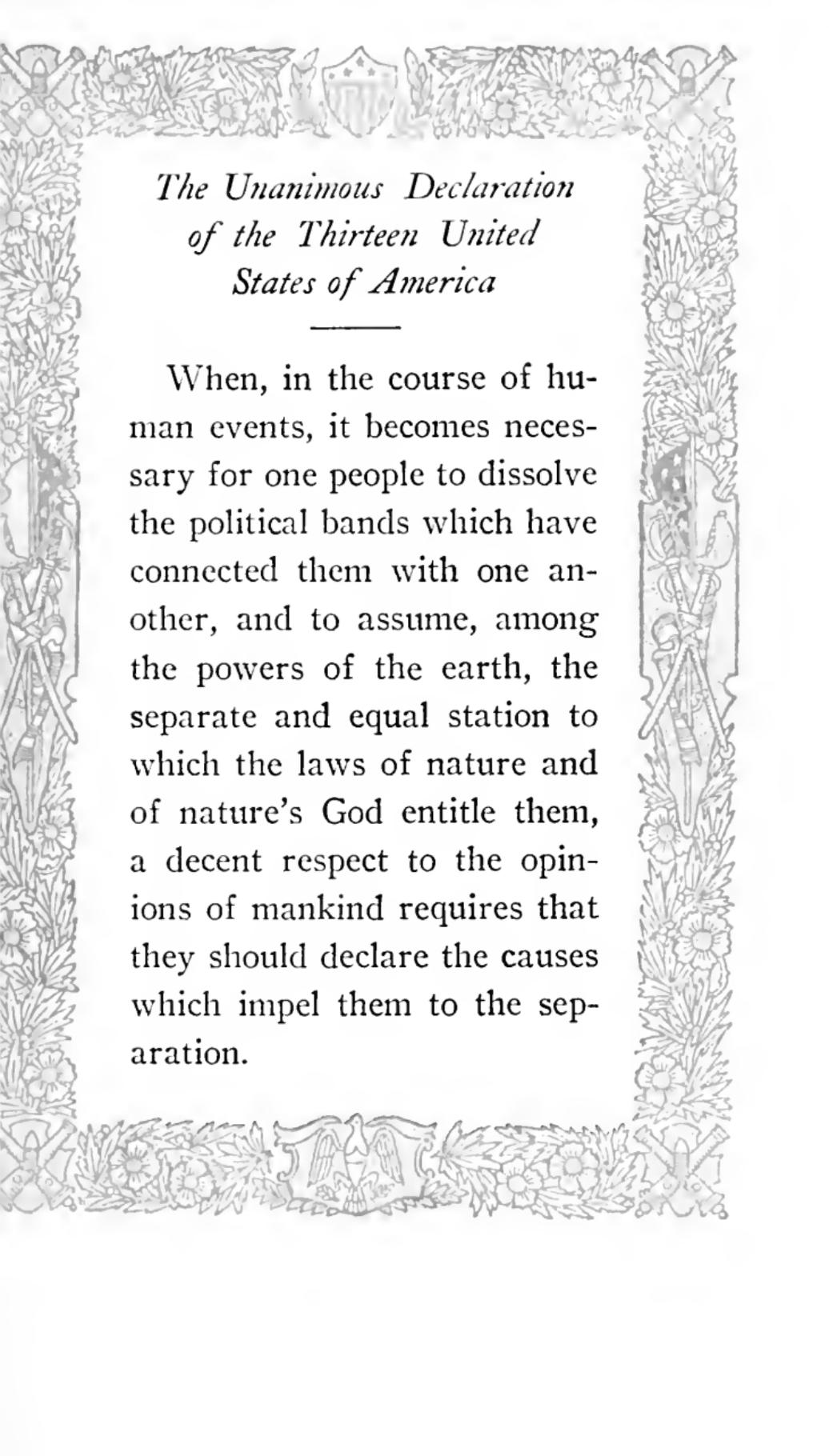
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*The Declaration
of Independence*

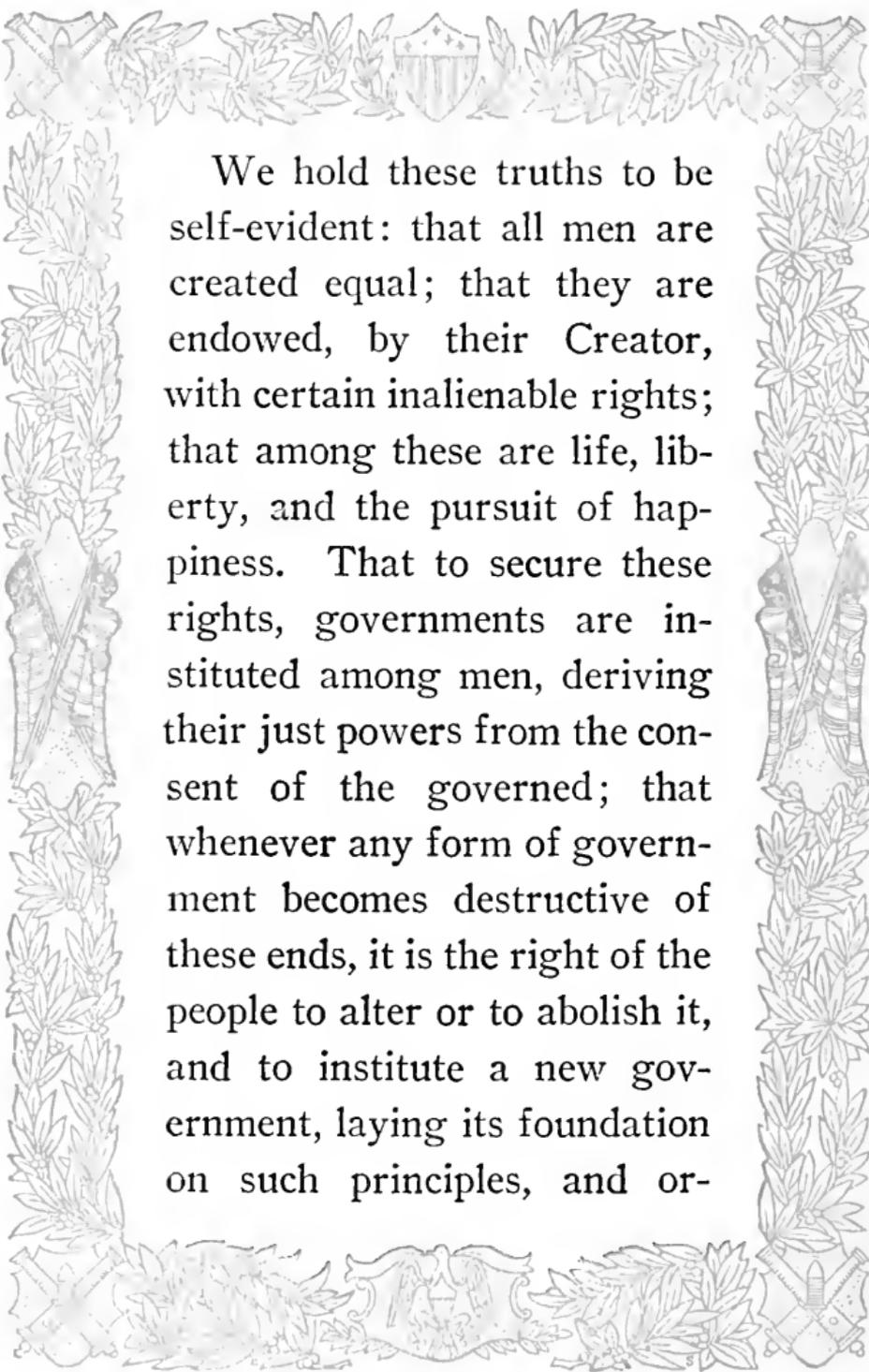
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
1776



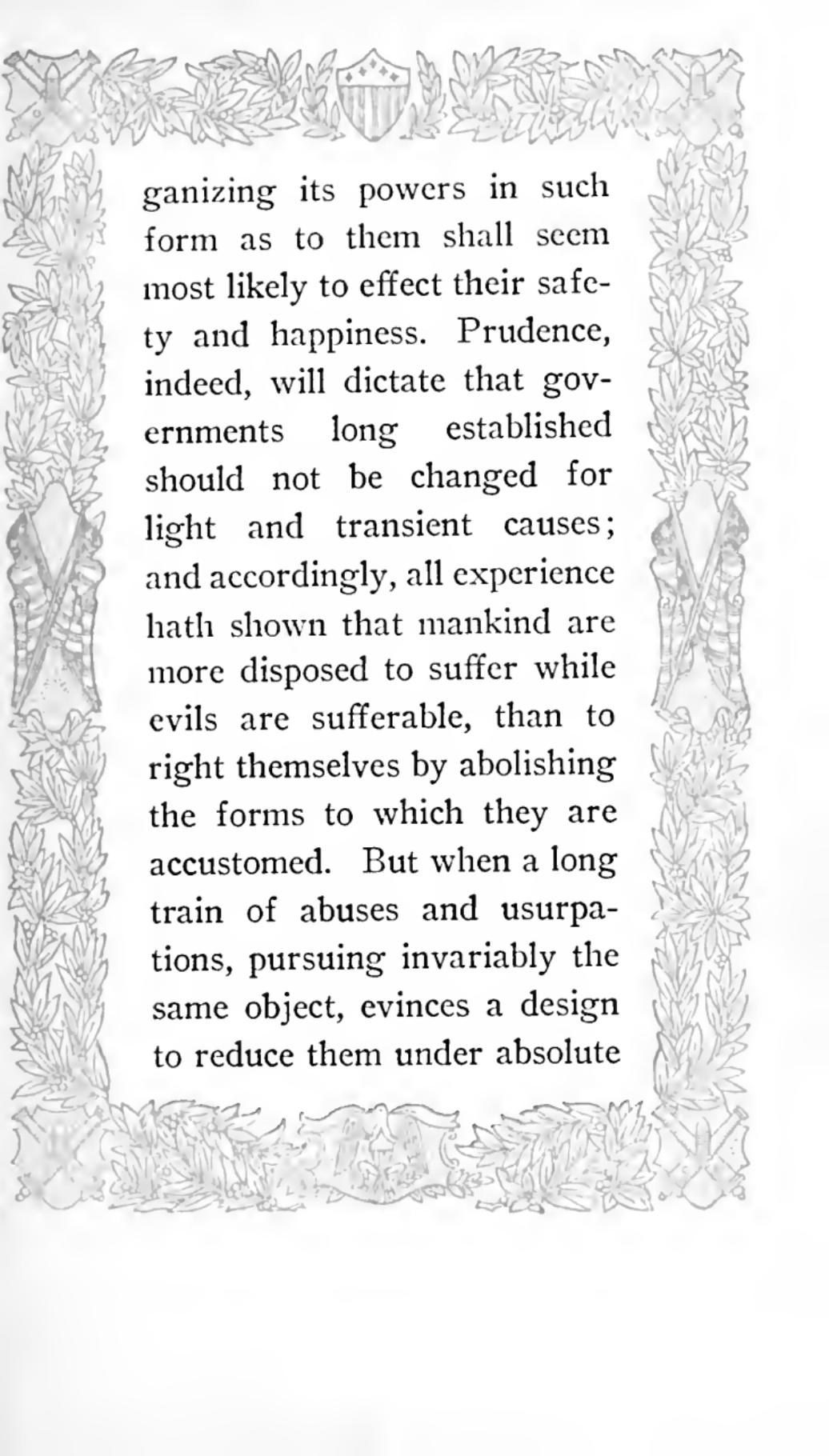
The page is framed by a decorative border. At the top center is a shield with stars and stripes, flanked by floral sprays. The sides are decorated with vertical bands of flowers and crossed tools (swords and spears). At the bottom center is an eagle with wings spread, flanked by more floral sprays.

*The Unanimous Declaration
of the Thirteen United
States of America*

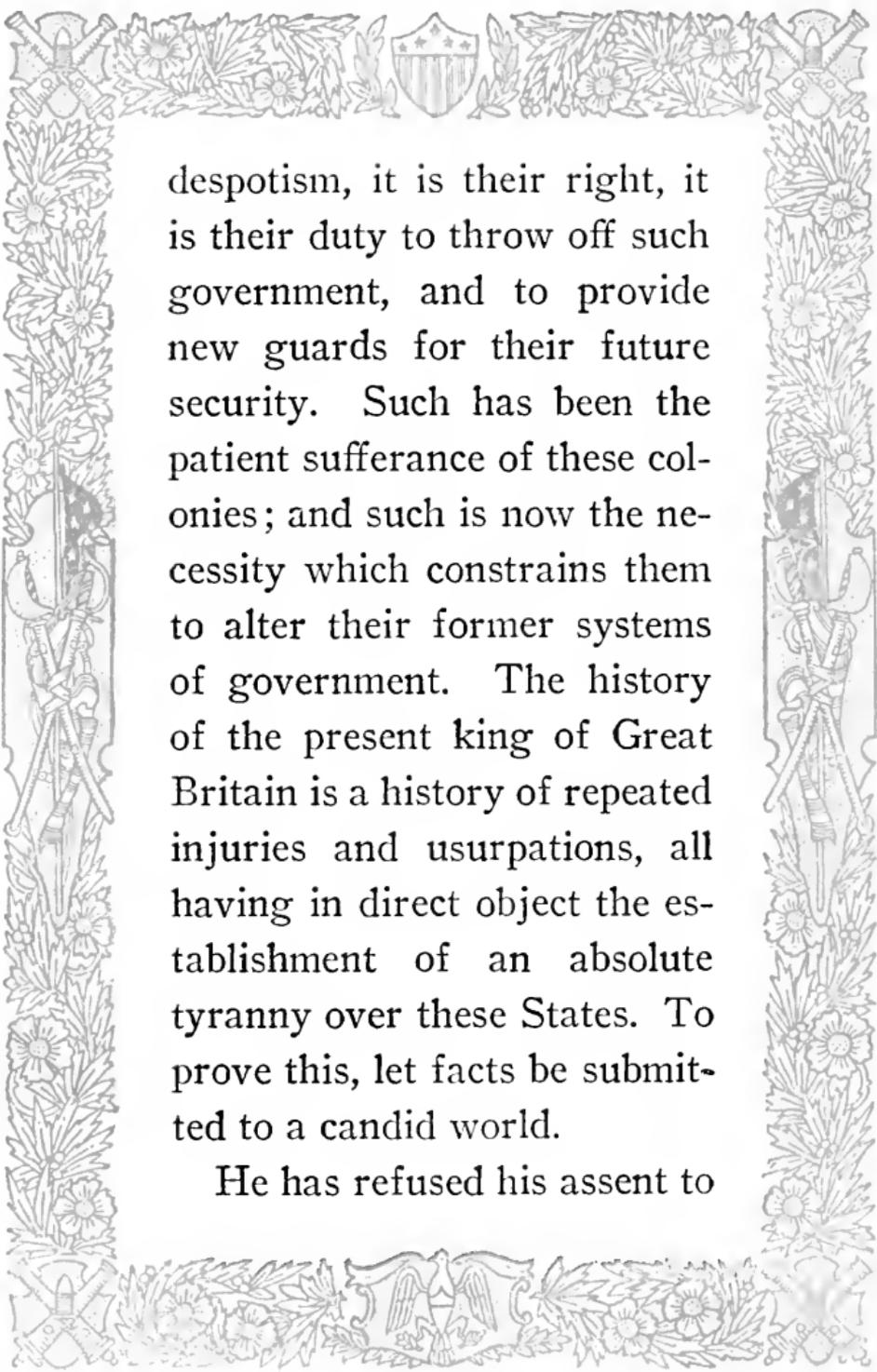
When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with one another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect 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: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain inalienable 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 a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and or-

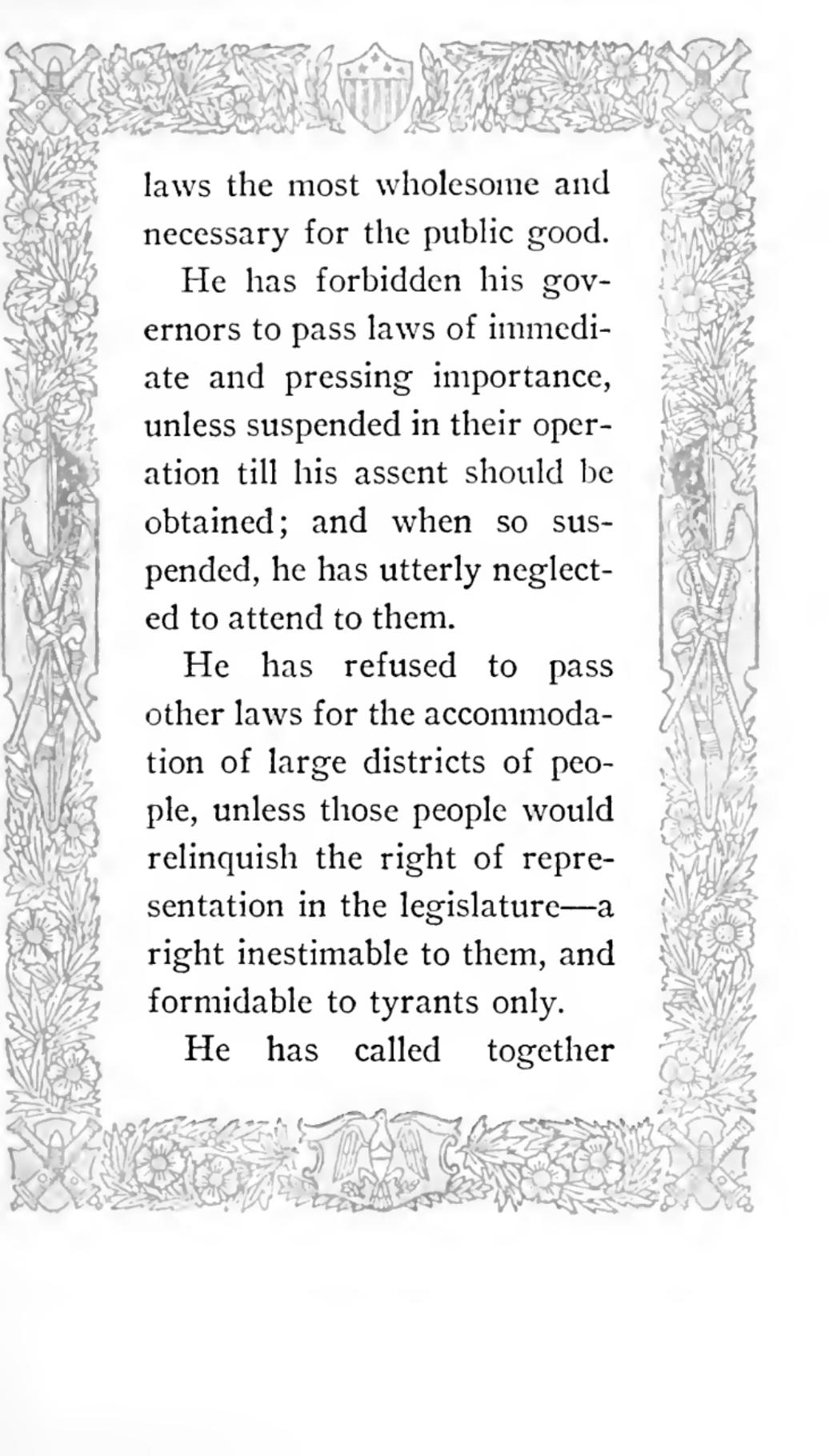
A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring a central shield with stars and stripes, flanked by laurel wreaths and floral patterns. The border is composed of repeating motifs of leaves, flowers, and heraldic symbols.

ganizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, all experience hath shown 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. The history of the present king of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to

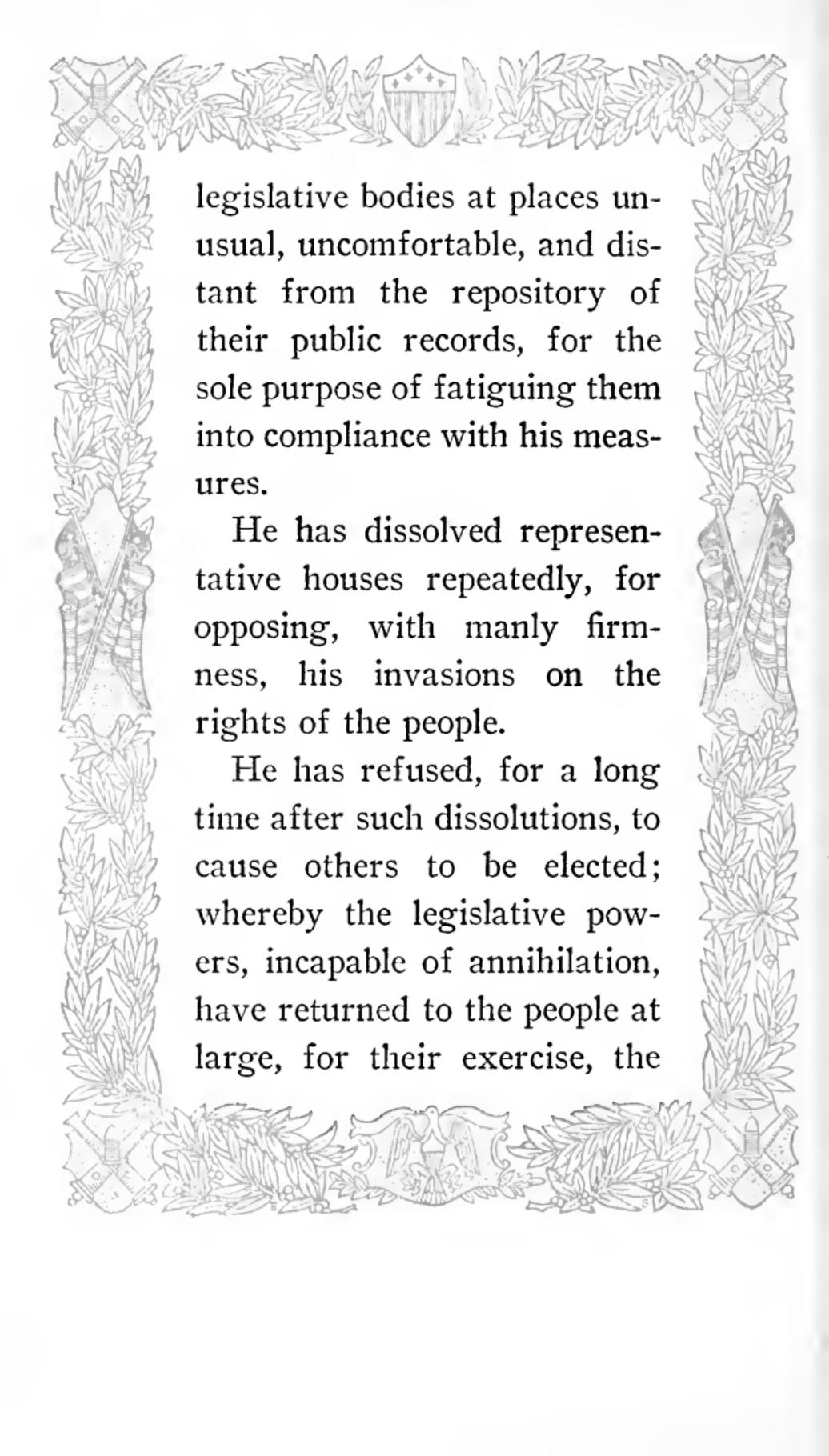
A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring floral patterns, a central shield with stars and stripes, and crossed tools like a pickaxe and a hammer.

laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature—a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

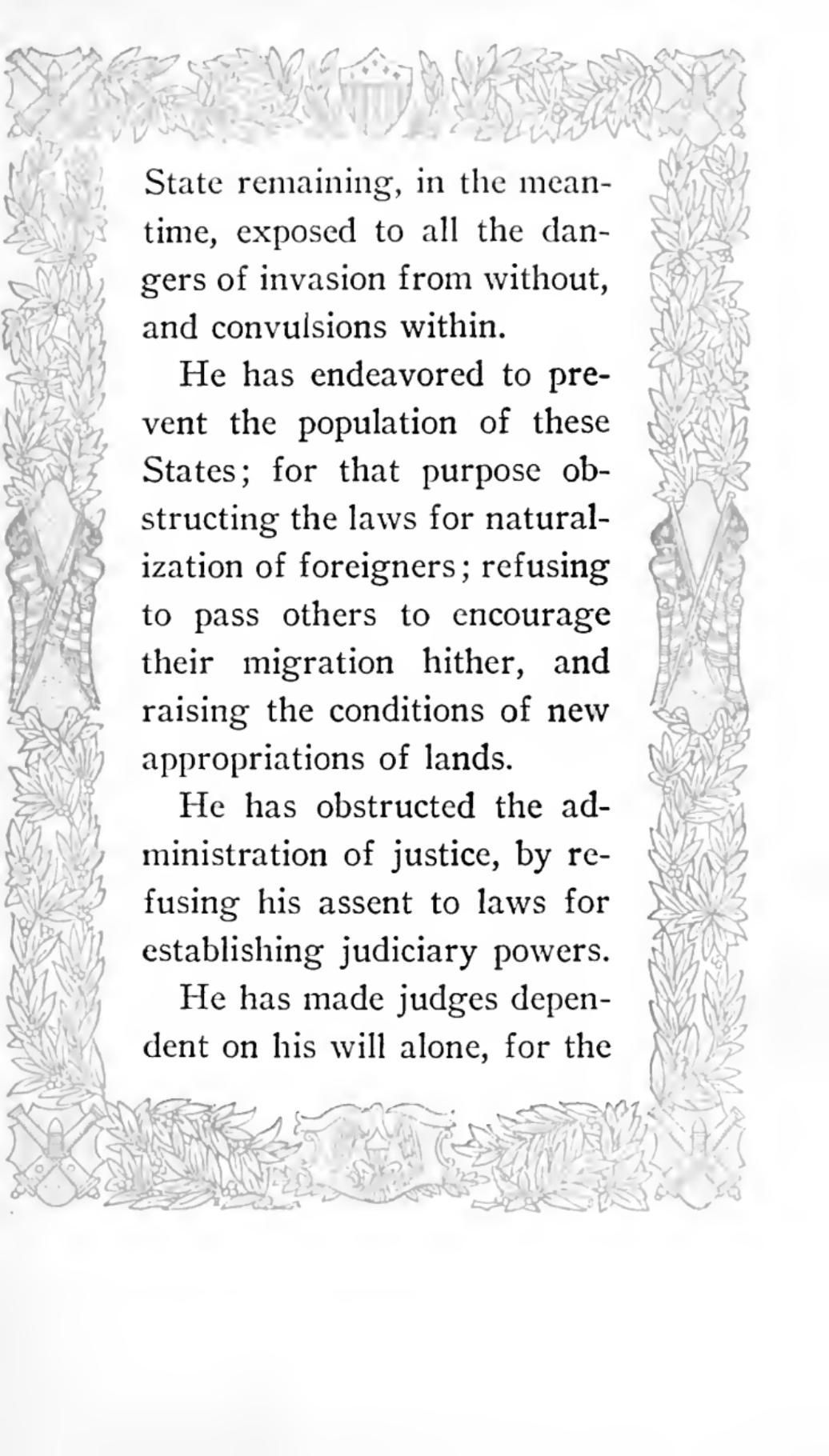
He has called together

A decorative border surrounds the text. At the top center is a shield with stars and stripes. On the left and right sides are crossed scales of justice. The border is filled with various floral and leaf patterns.

legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the repository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing, with manly firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused, for a long time after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large, for their exercise, the

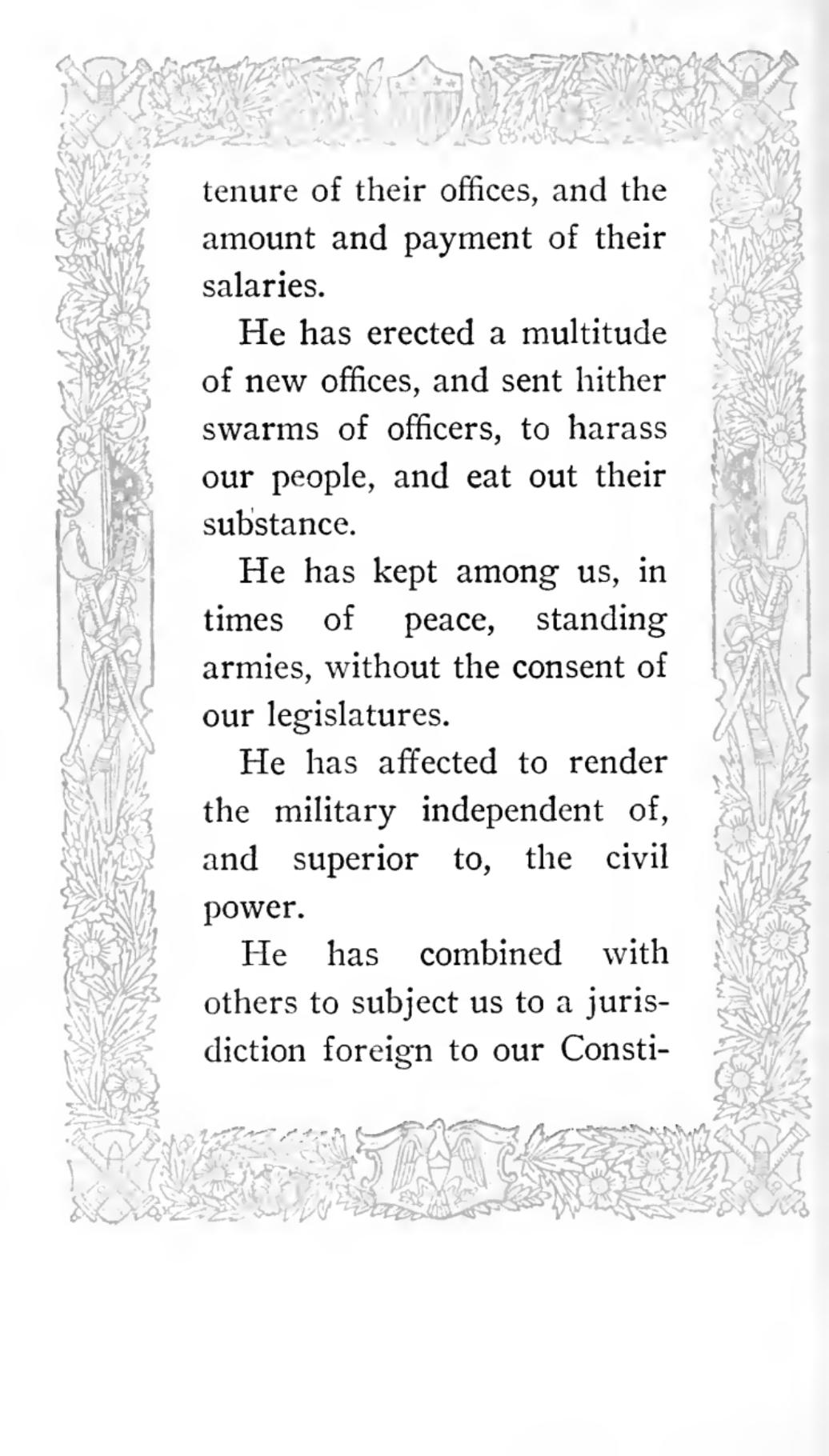
A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring a repeating pattern of stylized leaves and flowers. At the top and bottom center, there are heraldic shields. On the left and right sides, there are crossed swords or spears. The border is symmetrical and ornate.

State remaining, in the meantime, exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the

A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring floral patterns, a central shield with stars, and crossed swords.

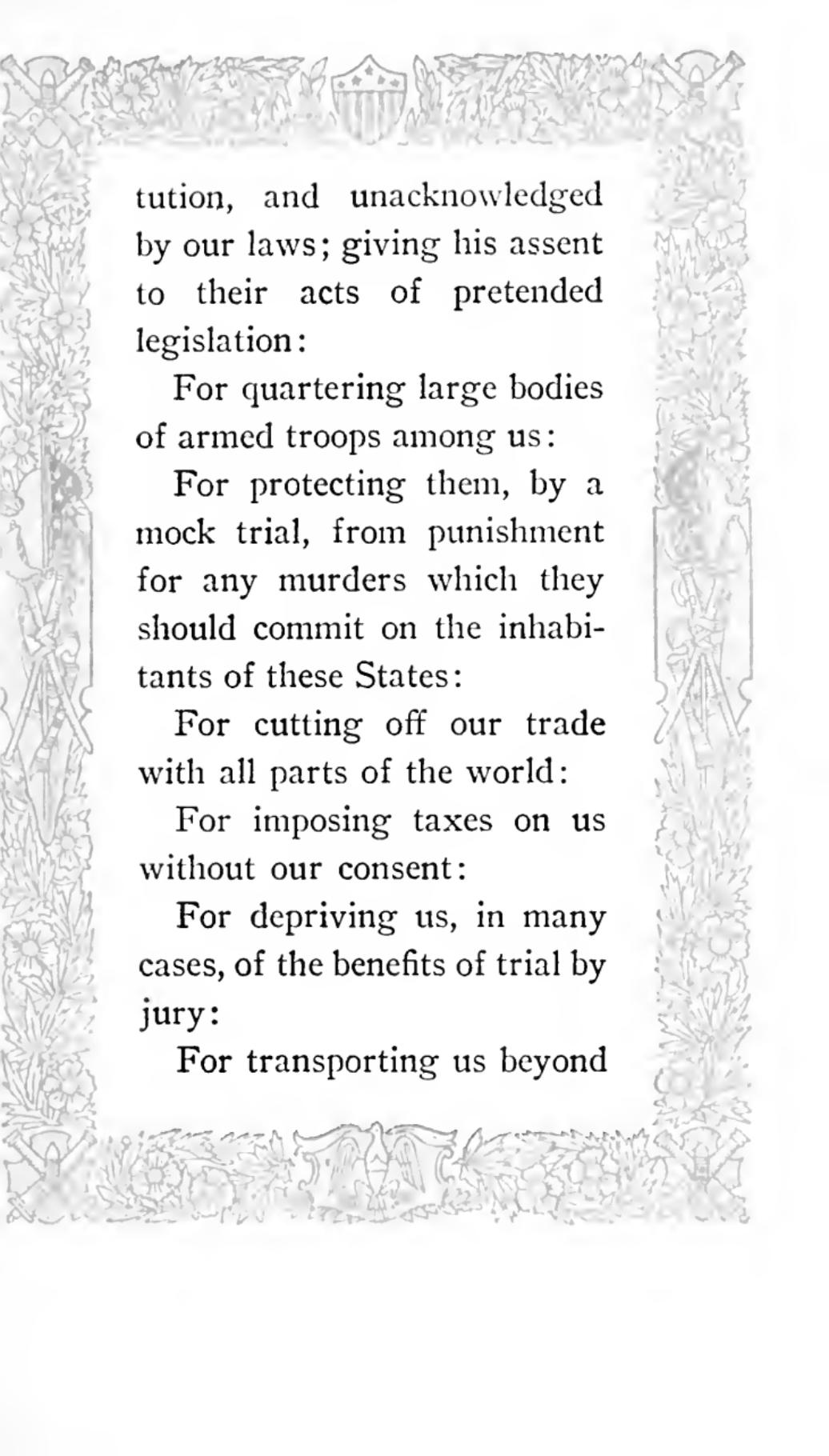
tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers, to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of, and superior to, the civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our Consti-

A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring floral patterns, a central shield with stars and stripes, and crossed swords.

tution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

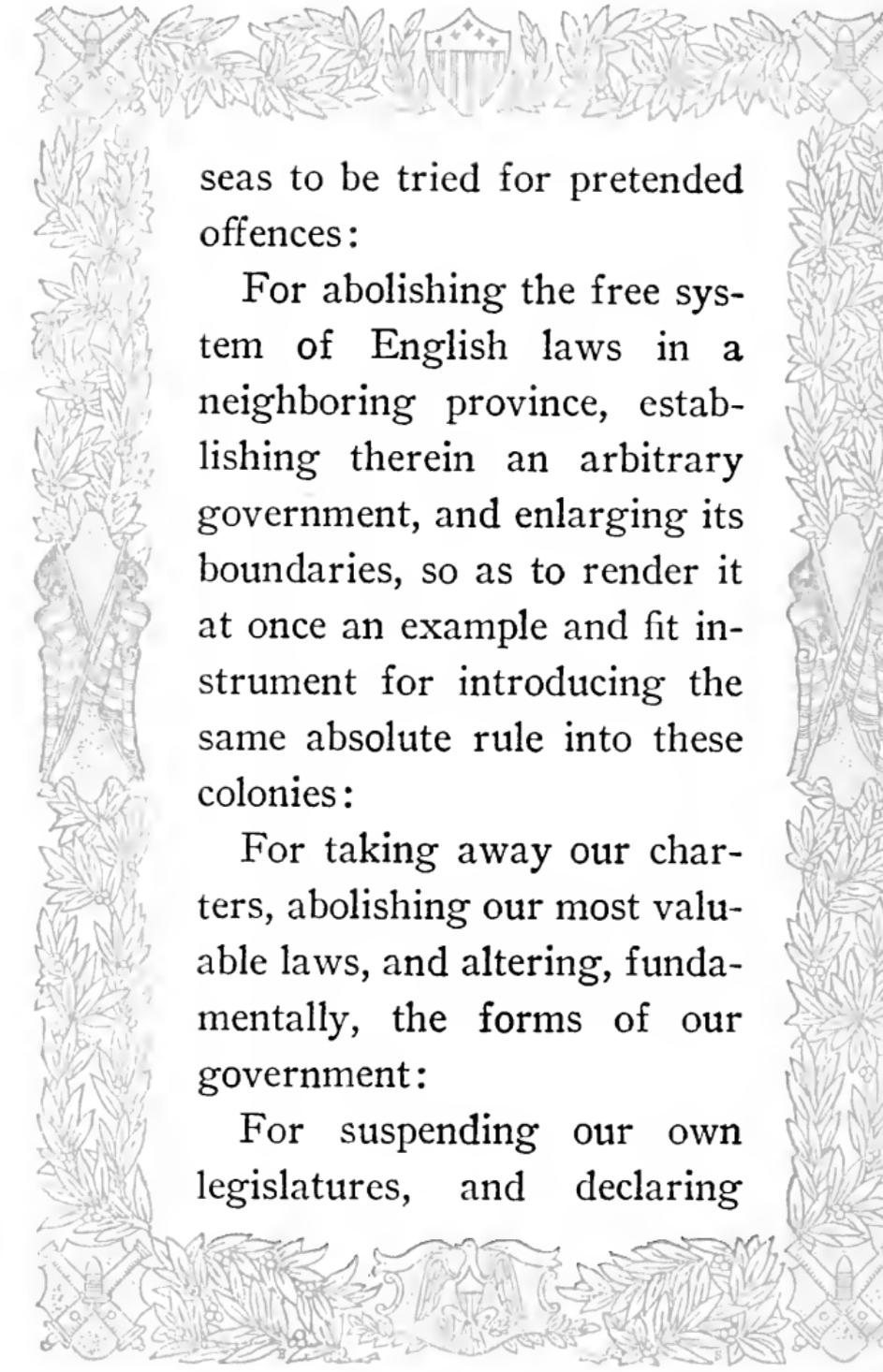
For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these States:

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

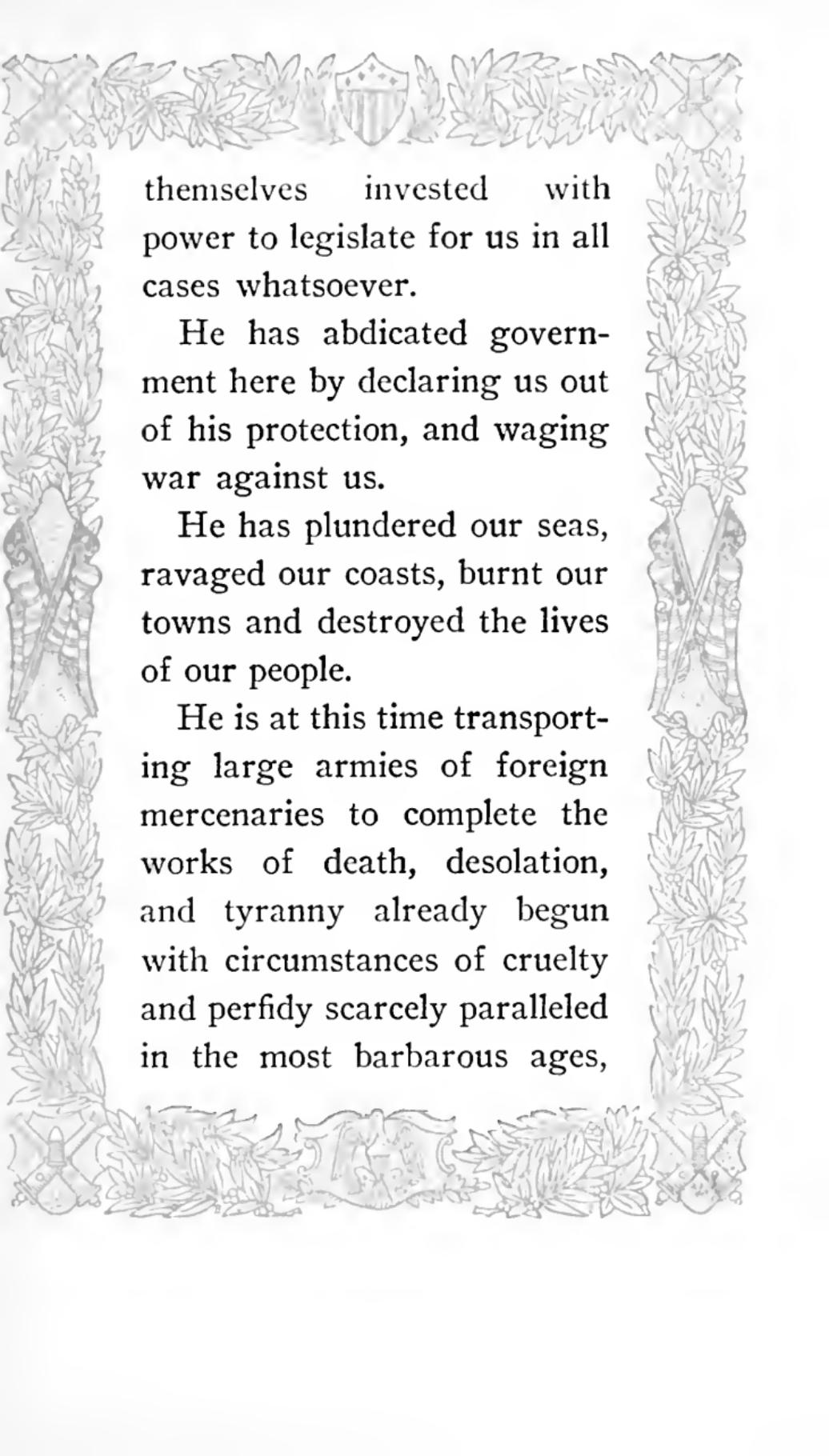


seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring 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 valuable laws, and altering, fundamentally, the forms of our government:

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring

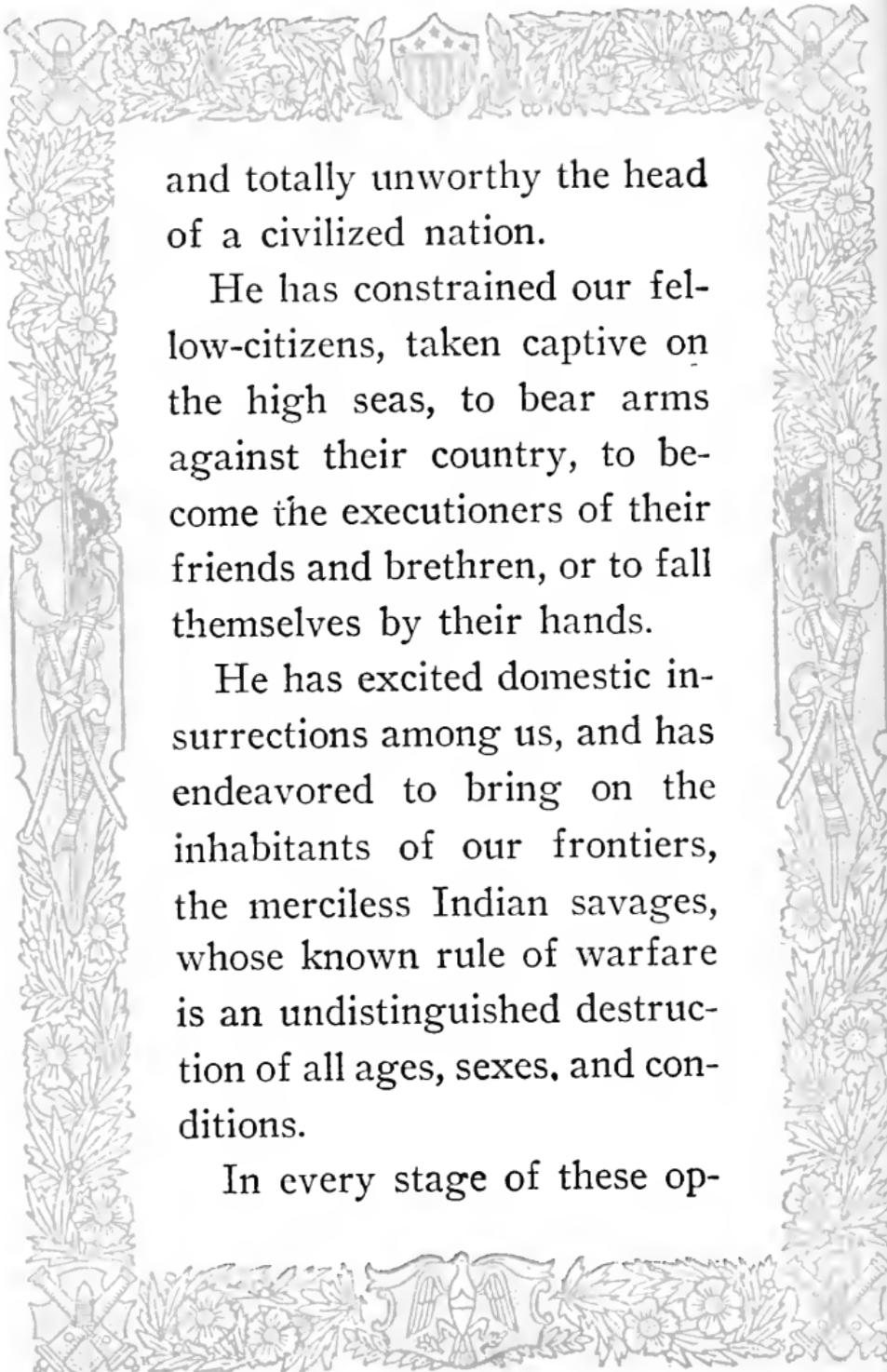
The page is framed by a decorative border. At the top center is a shield with stars and stripes, flanked by laurel branches. The sides are decorated with vertical garlands of leaves and flowers, with a central shield-like element. The bottom features a similar floral garland with a central shield and a figure.

themselves 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 complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages,

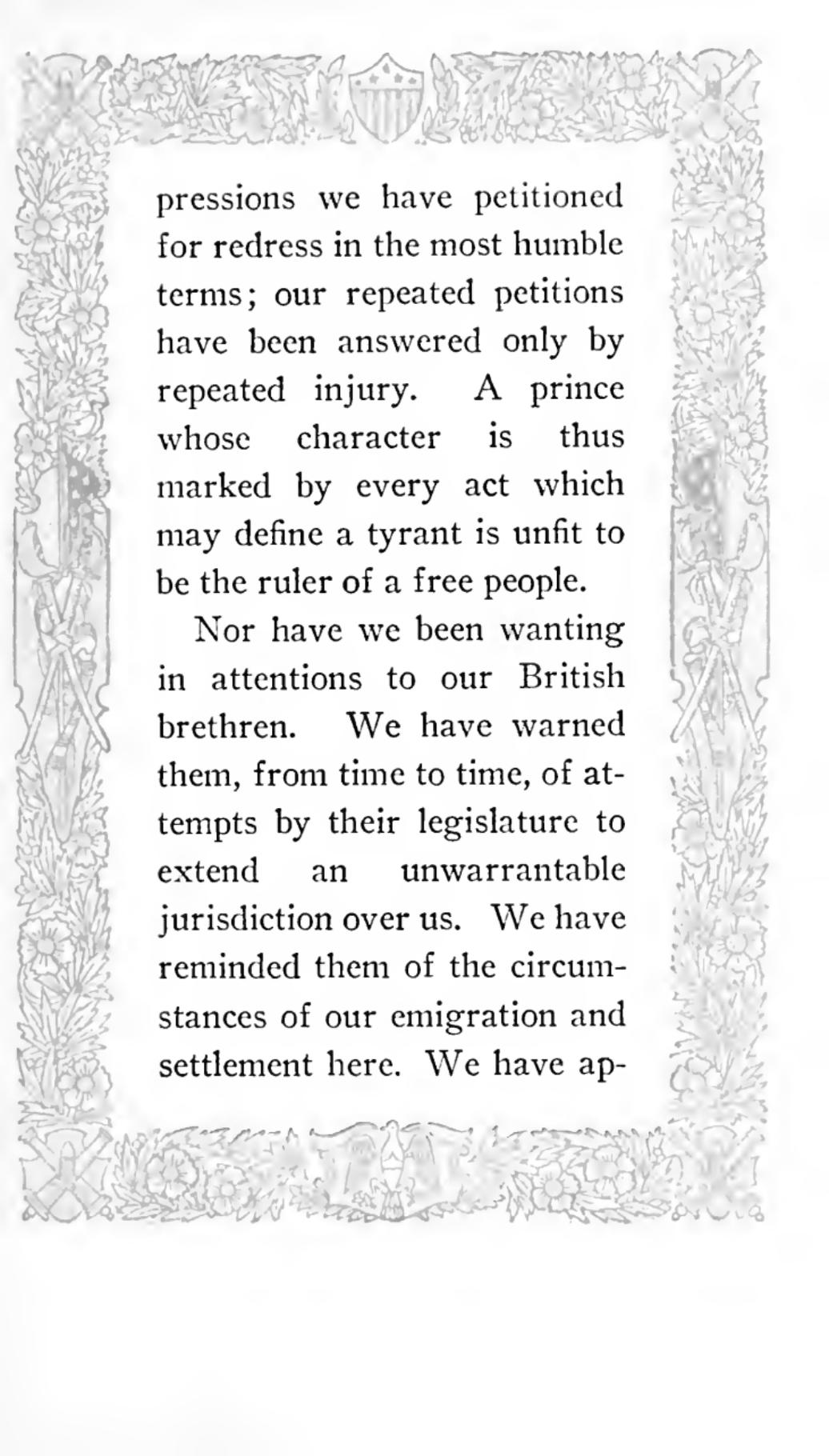
A decorative border surrounds the text. At the top center is a shield with stars and stripes. The sides are decorated with vertical panels containing crossed swords and a central figure. The bottom features a central eagle with wings spread, flanked by floral patterns.

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.

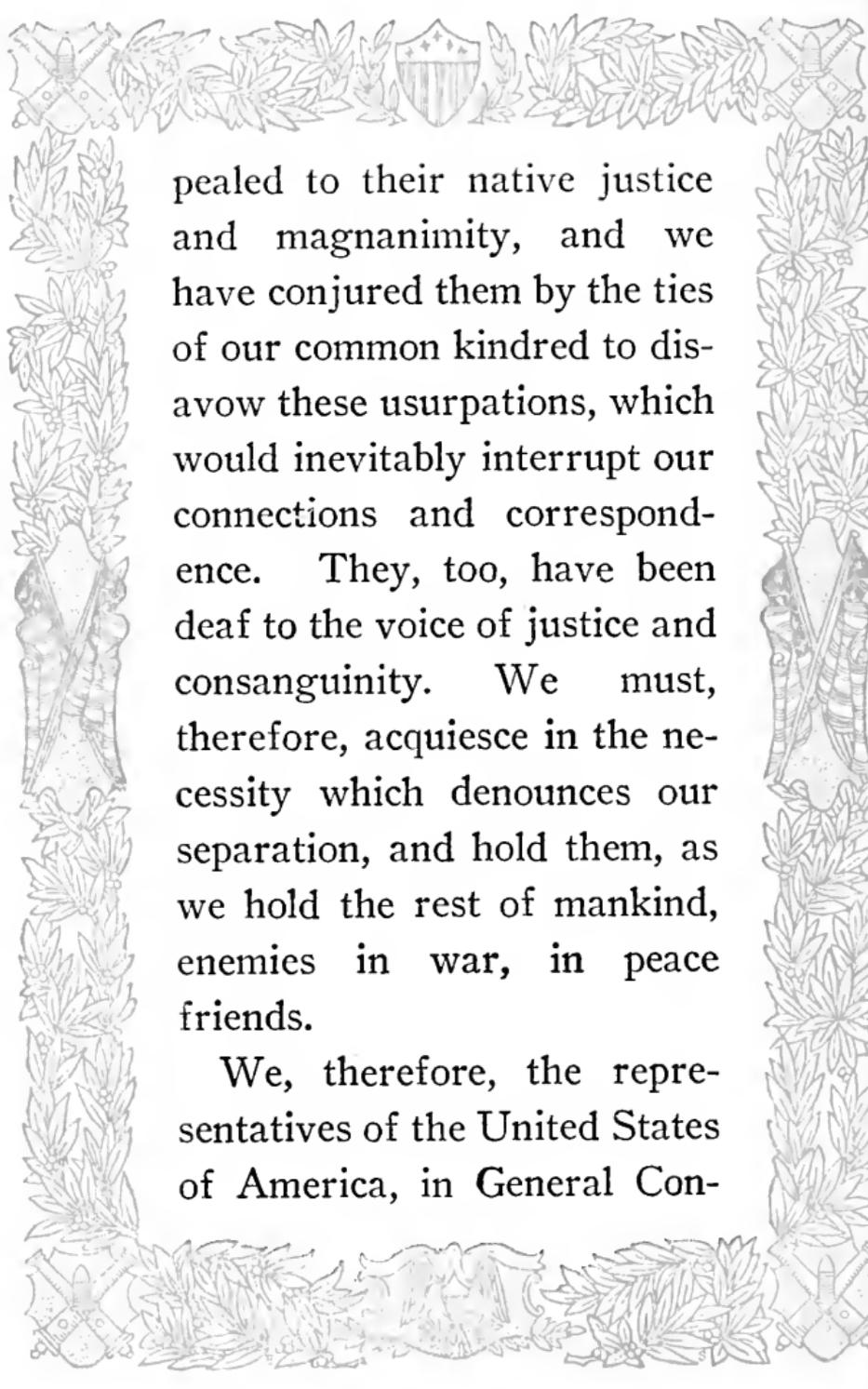
He has excited domestic insurrections among us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

In every stage of these op-

A decorative border surrounds the text. At the top center is a shield with vertical stripes and stars. The sides are decorated with vertical floral and leaf patterns. At the bottom center is an eagle with wings spread, perched on a branch. The entire border is rendered in a light, sketchy style.

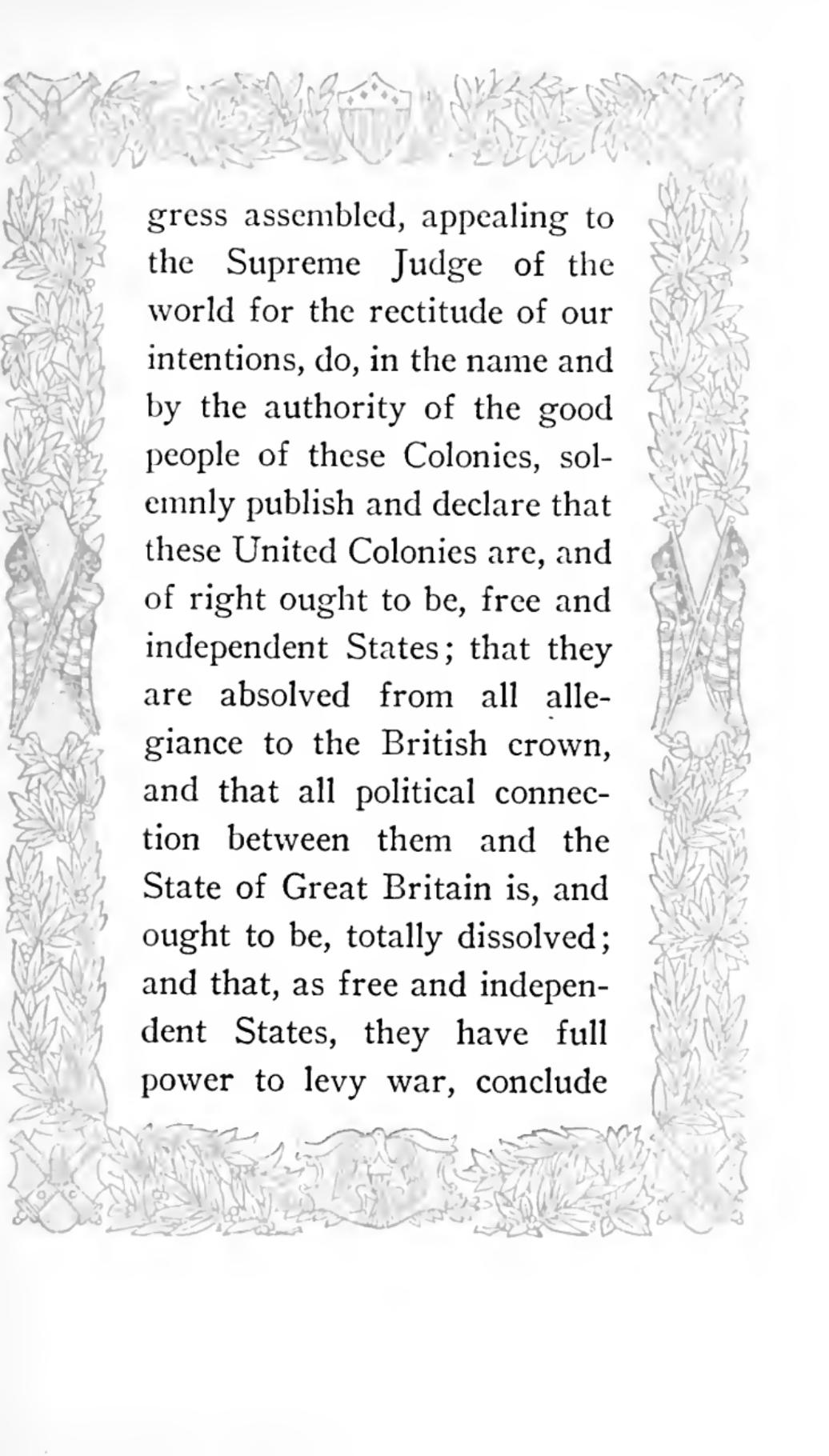
pressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms; our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions 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 circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have ap-

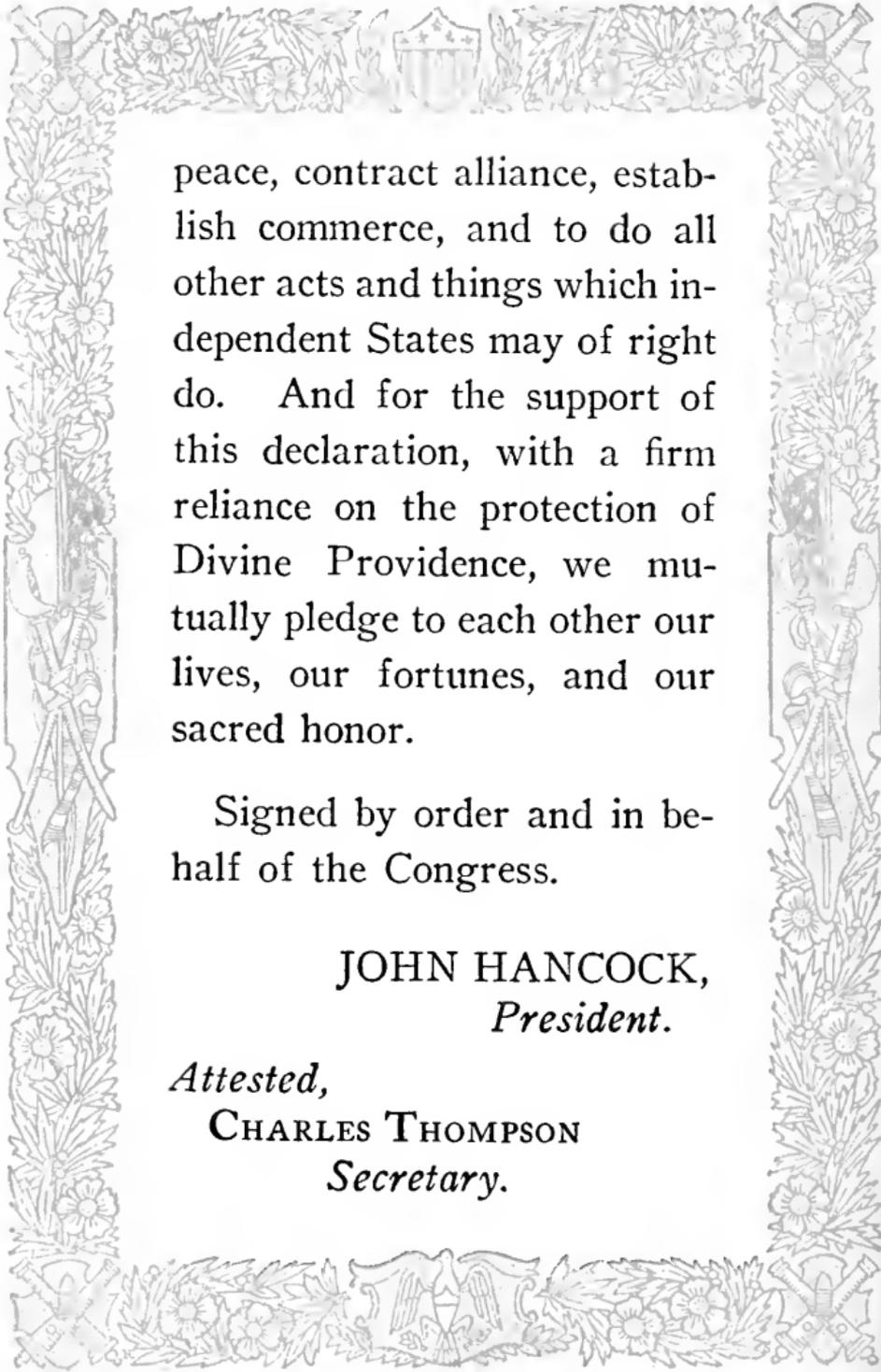


pealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They, too, have been deaf to the voice of justice and consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends.

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Con-

A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring floral patterns and heraldic symbols. At the top center is a shield with a crown above it. On the left and right sides, there are crossed flags or banners. At the bottom center, there is a figure, possibly a personification of Liberty or Justice, holding a staff or scepter.

gress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, 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; 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

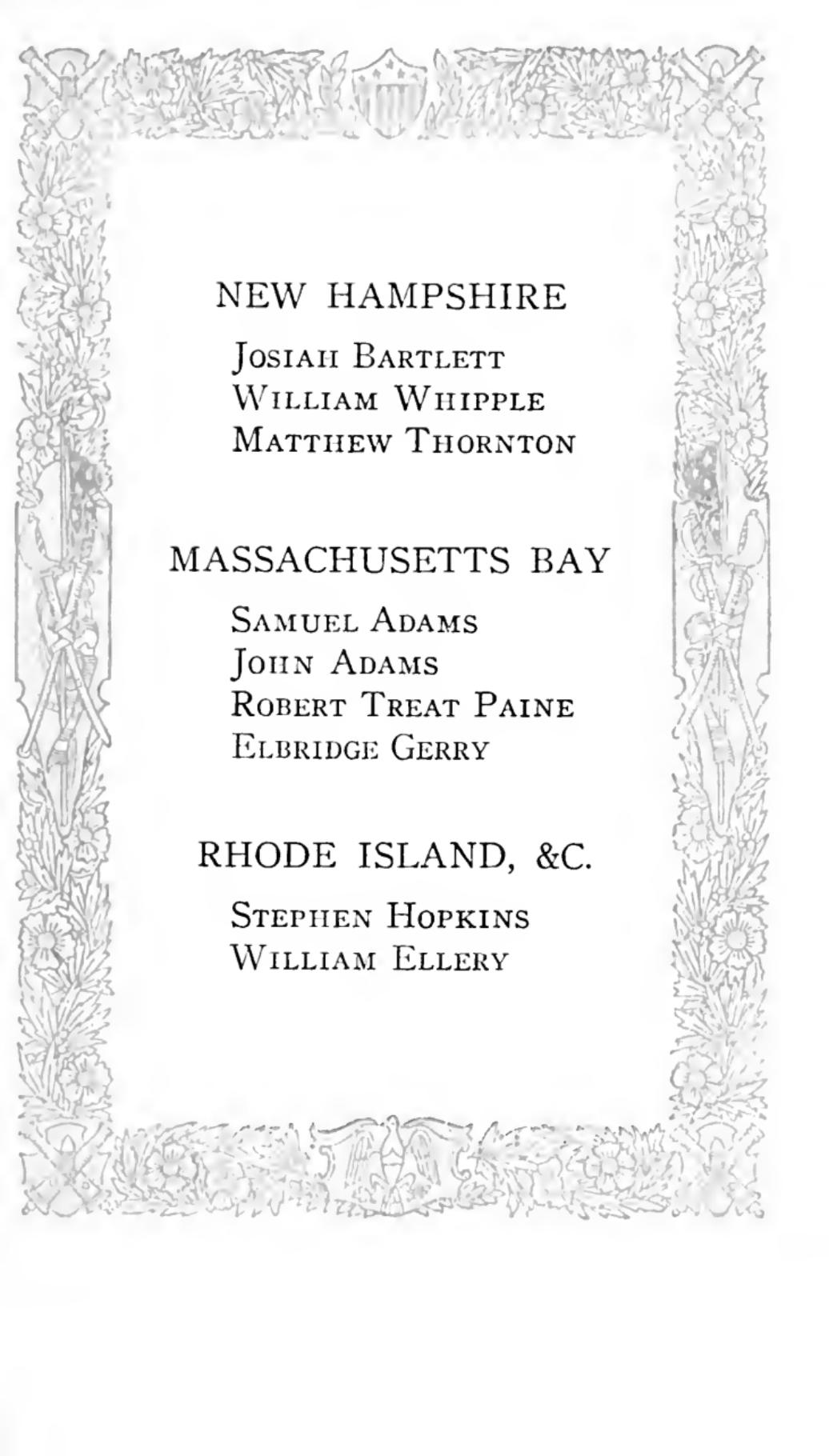


peace, contract alliance, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent States may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

Signed by order and in behalf of the Congress.

JOHN HANCOCK,
President.

Attested,
CHARLES THOMPSON
Secretary.



NEW HAMPSHIRE

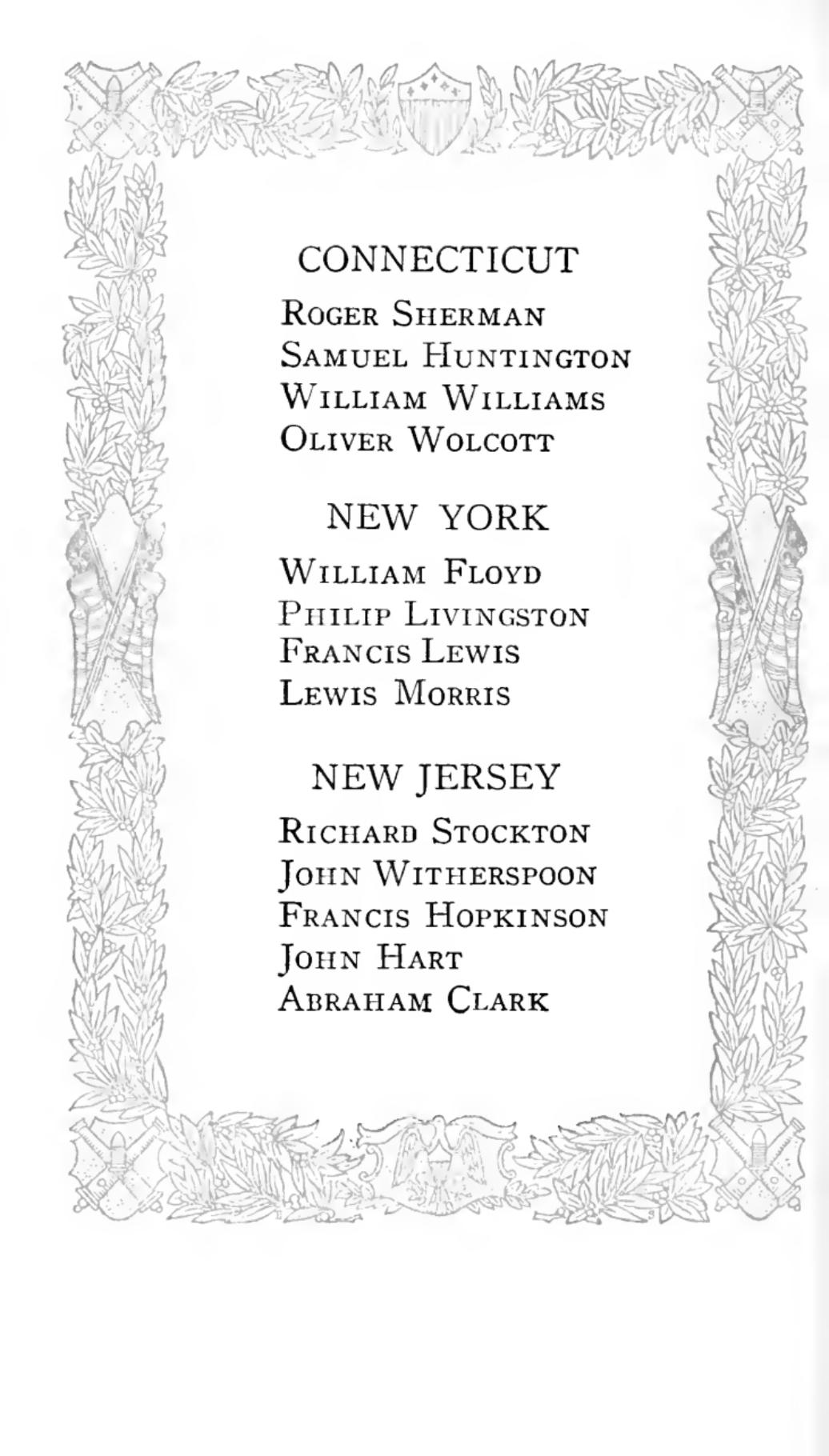
JOSIAH BARTLETT
WILLIAM WHIPPLE
MATTHEW THORNTON

MASSACHUSETTS BAY

SAMUEL ADAMS
JOHN ADAMS
ROBERT TREAT PAINE
ELBRIDGE GERRY

RHODE ISLAND, &C.

STEPHEN HOPKINS
WILLIAM ELLERY

A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring a repeating pattern of floral sprigs and heraldic shields. The shields contain symbols such as a cross, a shield with stars, and a shield with a cross and a lamp. The floral elements include leaves and small flowers.

CONNECTICUT

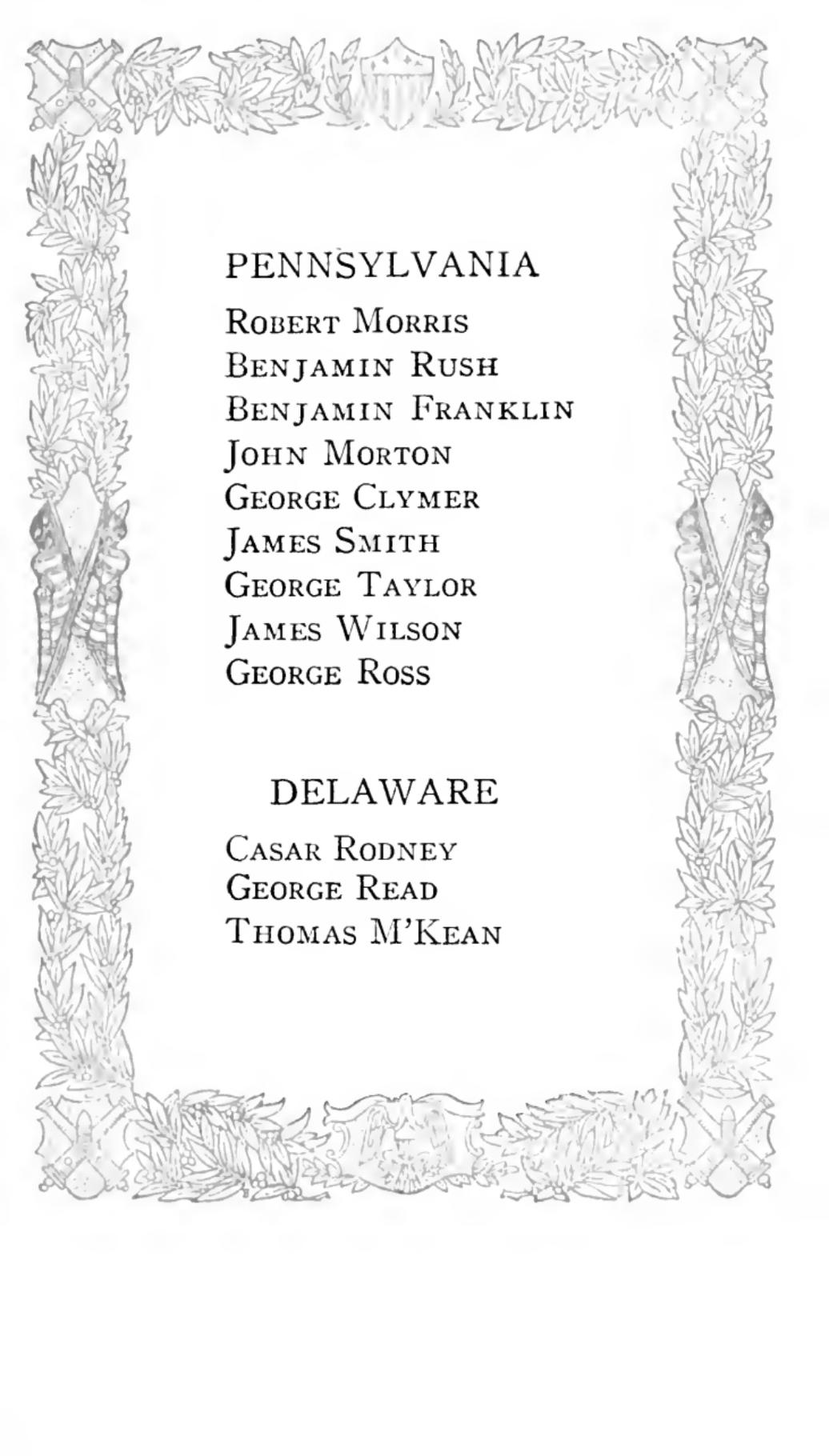
ROGER SHERMAN
SAMUEL HUNTINGTON
WILLIAM WILLIAMS
OLIVER WOLCOTT

NEW YORK

WILLIAM FLOYD
PHILIP LIVINGSTON
FRANCIS LEWIS
LEWIS MORRIS

NEW JERSEY

RICHARD STOCKTON
JOHN WITHERSPOON
FRANCIS HOPKINSON
JOHN HART
ABRAHAM CLARK



PENNSYLVANIA

ROBERT MORRIS

BENJAMIN RUSH

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

JOHN MORTON

GEORGE CLYMER

JAMES SMITH

GEORGE TAYLOR

JAMES WILSON

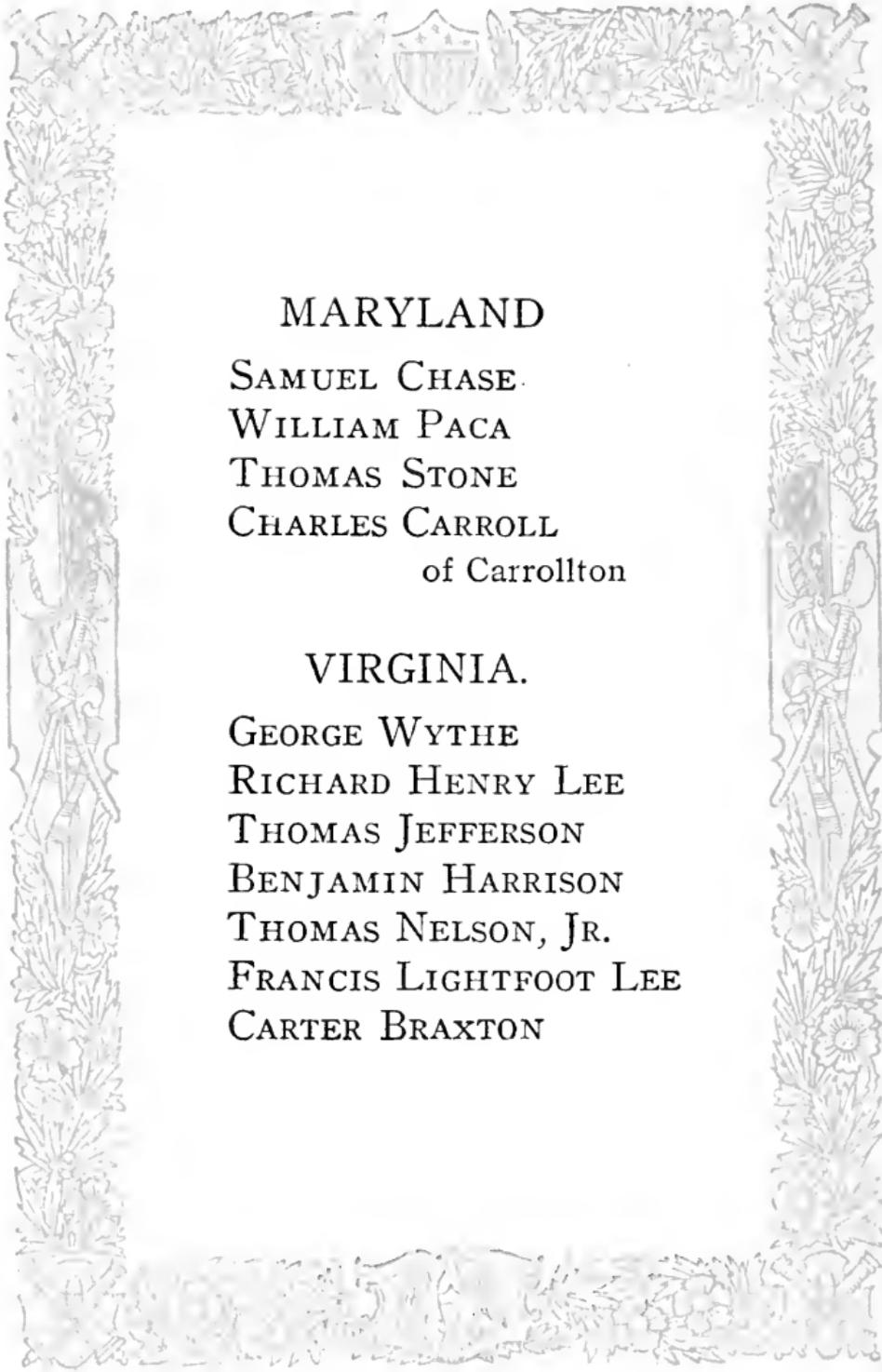
GEORGE ROSS

DELAWARE

CASAR RODNEY

GEORGE READ

THOMAS M'KEAN

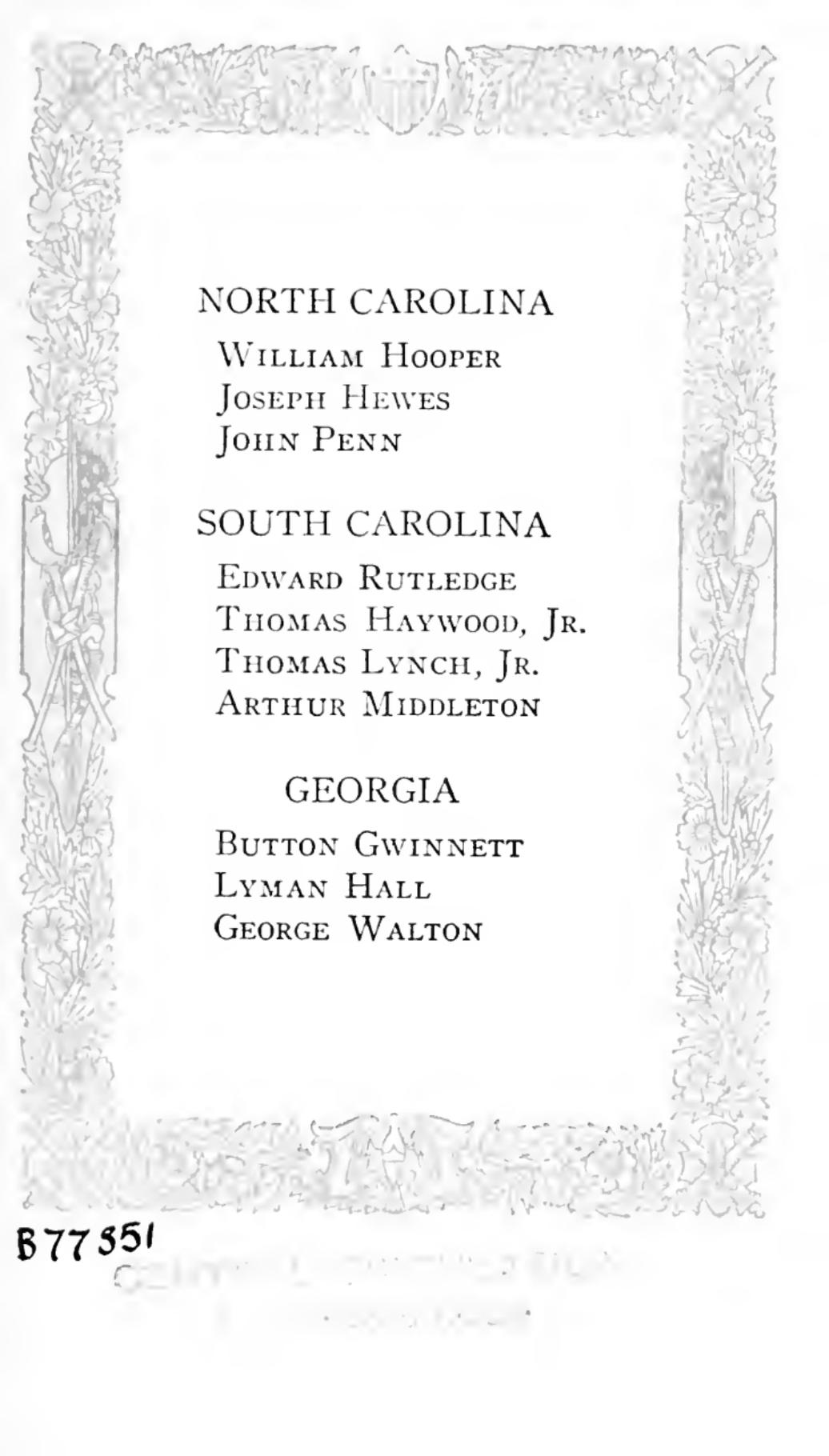


MARYLAND

SAMUEL CHASE.
WILLIAM PACA
THOMAS STONE
CHARLES CARROLL
of Carrollton

VIRGINIA.

GEORGE WYTHE
RICHARD HENRY LEE
THOMAS JEFFERSON
BENJAMIN HARRISON
THOMAS NELSON, JR.
FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE
CARTER BRAXTON

A decorative border with floral and geometric patterns surrounds the text. At the top center, there is a crest or shield with a cross and other symbols. The border consists of repeating floral motifs and geometric shapes.

NORTH CAROLINA

WILLIAM HOOPER

JOSEPH HEWES

JOHN PENN

SOUTH CAROLINA

EDWARD RUTLEDGE

THOMAS HAYWOOD, JR.

THOMAS LYNCH, JR.

ARTHUR MIDDLETON

GEORGIA

BUTTON GWINNETT

LYMAN HALL

GEORGE WALTON

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