

PART TWO

The Documents

A Note about the Text:

Written English in the last quarter of the eighteenth century differs somewhat from present-day written English. Since orthography was a central concern of Benjamin Franklin, Noah Webster, and other American authors of the period, original spellings and punctuation are maintained throughout the documents in this volume. In the interest of clarity and accessibility to the reader, however, the traditional long “s” (*f*) has been silently modernized.

In the following documents, numbered footnotes are those provided by the editor of this volume; asterisked footnotes are part of the original document.