

B Y T H E
P R E S I D E N T
O F T H E
Delaware State,

A
PROCLAMATION.

AS it is undoubtedly pleasing in the Sight of ALMIGHTY GOD, that his rational Creatures should yield a cheerful Submission to his Holy Laws; and it is their highest Honor and true Happiness to live in Conformity thereto: AND AS in his Providential Rule of the World, he hath vouchsafed in gracious Condescension to the Infirmities of Mankind, to enforce the Dictates of Reason by instructive Examples and express Declarations of his Divine Will, awfully holding forth the Threats and Punishments of irresistible Power against Offenders, and mercifully promising the inestimable Blessings of his Favour to the Obedient, THEREFORE, it appears to me my first and indispensable Duty, to call the Attention of the People of this State to a serious and due Consideration of these important Truths; most heartily desiring, that, with a lively Gratitude for the many and signal Mercies generally and particularly bestowed on Us, a deep Sense of our Unworthiness, an humble Acknowledgement of our Transgressions, a sincere Repentance for them, and a determined Resolution of Amendment, it may be our principal and constant Care to "render unto GOD the Things that are GOD'S;" and that We may earnestly endeavour to discourage and suppress all Vice, Profaneness and Immorality, so highly displeasing to the Deity, reproachful to Government, injurious to Society, corrupting to many otherwise virtuously inclined, and so justly tending to draw down the Vengeance of Heaven: AND TO THE INTENT, that Religion and good Manners may flourish and increase, I have thought fit to issue this Proclamation, exhorting all Persons decently and reverently to attend the Worship of GOD on every Lord's Day, as a Service acceptable to him, and the Means of Improvement to themselves; AND expecting, and hereby requiring, that all well-disposed Persons, and especially all Persons in Place of Authority, will by their own exemplary Conduct encourage and promote Piety and Virtue, guide the young, the weak, and the unexperienced into laudable Courses, and confirm them therein, and to their utmost contribute to the discountenancing those of dissolute and debauched Behaviour; that, they being thereby brought to feel the Shame and Contempt into which they are fallen, may be prevailed on to reform their evil Practices, and others being deterred from imitating the same, and preserved from their pernicious Influence, may at length be properly principled against them; and thus, the Conversation and Demeanour of good Men may aid the Laws, and supply what they cannot wholly effectuate—AND for further promoting such Reformation, it is hereby enjoined, that all Magistrates, and others, whom it may concern, be very vigilant and exact in discovering, prosecuting and punishing all Persons, who shall be guilty of Profanation of the Lord's Day, Blasphemy, Profane Swearing or Cursing, Drunkenness, Lewdness, or other dissolute or immoral Practice; that they suppress all public Gaming Houses and other disorderly Houses; that they put in Execution the Act of Assembly, intitled, "An Act against Drunkenness, and to prevent the grievous Sins of Profane Cursing, Swearing and Blasphemy," and also another Act, intitled, "An Act to prevent the Breach of the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday," and all other Laws now in Force for the punishing and suppressing any Vice, Profaneness, or Immorality—AND for the more effectual proceeding herein, all Judges and Justices having Cognizance, are hereby directed to give strict Charges at their respective Courts and Sessions, for the due Prosecution and Punishment of all who shall presume to offend in any of the Kinds aforesaid, and also of all such, as contrary to their Duty, shall be remiss or negligent in putting the Laws in Execution—AND every Minister of the Gospel is hereby requested to read or cause to be read this Proclamation, in the Place of Worship where he officiates, as often as may be judged proper, and strongly to inculcate in their respective Congregations, a Love of Piety and Virtue, and an Abhorrence of Vice, Profaneness and Immorality.

GIVEN under my Hand and the Great-Seal of the State, at New-castle, this Nineteenth Day of November, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-one.

JOHN DICKINSON, President.

By His Excellency's Command,

JAMES BOOTH, Secretary.