

THOMAS CHITTENDEN,

ESQUIRE, GOVERNOR, AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF, IN AND OVER THE STATE
OF VERMONT.

A PROCLAMATION.

It being the indispensable duty of a community to acknowledge their dependence on the supreme Disposer and Governor of all events, and humble themselves for their sins under the rebukes of his righteous hand: and particularly seasonable at the opening of the year, that the people of this state should unitedly supplicate his blessing, of which their multiplied transgressions render them unworthy:—

I HAVE thought fit to appoint, and by and with the advice of the council, do hereby appoint, **WEDNESDAY**, the twentyseventh day of April next, to be observed throughout this state as a day of public **HUMILIATION, FASTING** and **PRAYER**. And I do exhort, both ministers and people, of every religious denomination, to assemble in their respective congregations on that day, and with deep, unfeigned contrition and penitence of heart, to confess their sins to almighty **GOD**;—and implore the forgiveness of them, through the merits and mediation of **JESUS CHRIST** our SAVIOUR; at the same time resolving, by the assistance of grace, not only to forsake them, but to bring forth the fruits of a virtuous, holy life. Earnestly beseeching him, that he would be pleased to suppress vice, immorality and error; that he would, for this end, grant the special influence of his holy spirit, to convert men from the error of their ways—and cause pure and undefiled religion to revive and spread through the land; that he would build up churches in the simplicity and fellowship of the gospel—and cause a spirit of mutual love, forbearance, and charity, to revive and prevail among the professors of our holy religion; that he would bless and succeed the instituted means of gospel instruction—and grant to destitute congregations and churches faithful and able pastors and teachers; that he would bless and direct the legislative, executive, and judiciary departments of the state; that our rulers may be examples of virtue and piety to their subjects; that, by a proper exercise of their authority, they may be a terror to the wicked, and the promoters and encouragers of virtue; that a spirit of union, and obedience to the laws of the state, might prevail among all ranks of men; that he would build up and prosper seminaries and schools of learning, that our youth may be trained up to all useful knowledge; that he would prosper our husbandry, manufactures, and every branch of useful commerce; bring forward the spring of the year in mercy; crown the year with health, peace, and plenty, and every needed effect of his goodness; save from droughts, frosts, insects, and every desolating judgment; that he would bless the united states of America—succeed their councils at home, and negotiations abroad; preserve and strengthen their union—bless their allies, and render the connexion formed with them mutually beneficial; that he would grant wisdom and council to their legislative, executive, and judiciary department; that he would prolong, and render eminently useful, the life of the president of the united states of America; and that he would establish and build up the peaceful, glorious kingdom of **GOD** our SAVIOUR throughout the world.

☞ ALL servile labor and recreation is forbidden on said day.

GIVEN at the council chamber, at Bennington, the twentyseventh day of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand, seven hundred, and ninetyone, and in the fifteenth year of the independence of VERMONT.

Thomas Chittenden.

By his excellency's command,

Joseph Fay, secretary.