

BY HIS EXCELLENCY
MARTIN CHITTENDEN, ESQ.

Governor, Captain General and Commander in Chief in and over the
State of Vermont,

A PROCLAMATION

For a Day of Fasting and Prayer.

WHILE our obligations to the Author of our mercies should frequently call forth expressions of gratitude, our transgressions should excite in our hearts sentiments of penitence for past offences, and of supplication for the continuance of our forfeited blessings. And while the individual worshippers of the Most High are thus bound to personal expressions of gratitude and penitence, it is incumbent on the citizens of political States having common obligations, transgressions and wants, as is the pious example of our fathers, to unite their expressions of supplication and of worship.

I do therefore, with the advice of the Council, appoint WEDNESDAY, the Twenty-sixth day of April next, to be observed as a day of HUMILIATION, FASTING and PRAYER, throughout this State. And I do earnestly request, that the day may be universally consecrated to the service of Almighty God; that all religious societies may assemble in their respective places of worship; and that the people of the State, remembering, with humility their abuse of the former mercies and loving kindness of the Lord, may, with united hearts implore, that he would smile compassionately on the concerns of this State.

Let us especially, as individuals, and as a people, humble ourselves before Him, and repent of our aggravated offences,—of our forgetfulness of His mercies, our neglect of His word and ordinances, and our general defection from the piety and virtue of our fathers. And let us supplicate that He would forgive our great and alarming transgressions of His law: That he would eradicate from the hearts of the citizens of this State every disposition to profane his name, His worship and institutions and to abuse his innumerable blessings: And that He would remove from us all that vice, immorality and irreligion, which have so justly merited His chastisement.

And with our penitence and supplication, let us unite in the general expressions of gratitude to the Author of every good and perfect gift, for His late interposition in our behalf. That when we had provoked Him to anger, and the multiplied calamities of war had involved our country in the deepest affliction, and darkness and danger still awaited us on every hand, He has suddenly withdrawn the rod of His indignation, and restored to us the various blessings of peace: That the lives of our citizens are no longer to be wasted in the field of battle, or with the pestilence of the camp: That our towns and cities are no longer exposed to desolation, or the inhabitants of our frontiers to the ravages of an invading enemy: And that we may now sit under our own

vines and fig-trees, and pursue the employments and enjoy the blessings of life without an enemy to molest or make us afraid. And let us fervently implore, that He would render the people of the United States fit subjects for such inestimable mercies, that He may not again hide his face from us: That, for this purpose, He would visit this nation with the influences of His Spirit; and promote among all classes the true principles and the practice of piety and virtue: That He would bless the President of the U. States with wisdom from on high, and accompany both rulers and people with His especial guidance in their several duties: That He would enable all in authority to rule in His fear, and with a fixed regard for the honour of His name, and for the peace, prosperity and happiness of their country: That among the people, He would create dispositions for order, for union of sentiment, for obedience to the laws and for submission to the powers that be: That He would give influence to the various institutions established among us for the diffusion of knowledge and religion, for the suppression of vice and for the alleviation of human suffering: And that He would cause the universal prevalence of that righteousness, which exalteth a nation.

Let us farther supplicate the great Ruler among the nations, that He would prosper all the lawful employments of our citizens: That He would crown the labour of the husbandman with an abundant harvest; and cause manufactures and commerce to flourish: That He would in fine, give direction and success to all those means, which are calculated to render this a great, secure and happy nation:—That He would regard, in compassion, all the nations of the earth: That He would send down His Spirit to enlighten those, which are sitting in darkness: That He would relieve those which are enslaved and oppressed, and restore to peace those, which are at war: That He would soon bring forward the time, when peace, liberty, piety and virtue shall bless every nation and every individual, and when the kingdom of the Redeemer shall every where be established.

And I do request the people of this State to refrain from all recreations and unnecessary labour on said day.

Given under my hand at Williston, this seventeenth day of March in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States the thirty-ninth.

MARTIN CHITTENDEN.

By His Excellency's command,
SAMUEL SWIFT, Secretary.