



By the HONORABLE

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A P R O C L A M A T I O N.

W H E R E A S the Most Honorable the Continental Congress did, on the Sixteenth Day of *March* last, make and pass the following Resolve, *to wit* :

“ In Times of impending Calamity and Distress, when the Liberties of *America* are imminently endangered by the Secret Machinations and open Assaults of an insidious and vindictive Administration, it becomes the indispensable Duty of these hitherto free and happy Colonies, with true Penitence of Heart, and the most reverent Devotion, publicly to acknowledge the overruling Providence of God; to confess and deplore our Offences against him; and to supplicate his Interposition for averting the threatened Danger, and prospering our strenuous Efforts in the Cause of FREEDOM, VIRTUE and POSTERITY.

“ The Congress therefore, considering the warlike Preparations of the *British* Ministry to subvert our valuable Rights and Privileges, and to reduce us, by Fire and Sword, by the Savages of the Wildernesse, and our own Domesticks, to the most abject and ignominious Bondage: Desirous, at the same Time, to have People of all Ranks and Degrees duly impressed with a solemn Sense of God's superintending Providence, and of their Duty, devoutly to rely in all their lawful Enterprizes on his Aid and Direction.— do earnestly recommend that *Friday* the Seventeenth Day of *May* next be observed by the said Colonies as a Day of HUMILIATION, FASTING and PRAYER; that we may with united Hearts confess and bewail our manifold Sins and Transgressions, and by a sincere Repentance and Amendment of Life appease his righteous Displeasure, and through the Merits and Mediation of Jesus Christ, obtain his Pardon and Forgiveness: Humbly imploring his Assistance to frustrate the cruel Purposes of our unnatural Enemies; and by inclining their Hearts to Justice and Benevolence, prevent the farther Effusion of kindred Blood. But if continuing deaf to the Voice of Reason and Humanity, and inflexibly bent on Desolation and War, they constrain us to repel their hostile Invasions by open Resistance, that it may please the *Lord of Hosts, the God of Armies*, to armate our Officers and Soldiers with invincible Fortitude, to guard and protect them in the Day of Battle, and to crown the Continental Arms by Sea and Land with Victory and Success: Earnestly beseeching him to bless our Civil Rulers, and the Representatives of the People, in their several Assemblies and Conventions; to preserve and strengthen their Union; to inspire them with an ardent disinterested Love of their Country, to give Wisdom and Stability to their Councils; and direct them to the most efficacious Measures for establishing the Rights of *America* on the most honorable and permanent Basis—that he would be graciously pleased to bless all the People in these Colonies with Health and Plenty, and grant that a Spirit of incorruptible Patriotism and of pure undefiled Religion may universally prevail; and this Continent be speedily restored to the Blessings of Peace and Liberty, and enabled to transmit them inviolate to the latest Posterity. And it is recommended to Christians of all Denominations to assemble for public Worship, and abstain from servile Labour, on said Day.”

And whereas the Honorable the General Assembly of the Colony aforesaid, at their Session held at *Providence* on the First *Wednesday* in *May* inst. did make and pass an Act adopting the aforesaid Resolve, and therein appointed the said Seventeenth Day of *May* to be observed in and throughout the said Colony as a Day of HUMILIATION, FASTING and PRAYER, forbad all servile Labour on that Day, and requested me to issue a Proclamation accordingly: I have therefore thought fit to issue this Proclamation, to declare and make known the same, and do hereby earnestly call upon the Inhabitants of the said Colony to assemble for public Worship on the said Seventeenth Day of *May*, agreeable to the said Resolution: And all servile Labour is forbidden on that Day.

G I V E N under my Hand, and the Seal of the said Colony,
at *Providence*, this Sixth Day of *May*; in the Year of our
L O R D One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-six.

• N I C H O L A S C O O K E .

By His Honor's Command,
HENRY WARD, Secretary.

God save the United Colonies.

