

STATE OF VERMONT.

A PROCLAMATION, BY THE GOVERNOR.

WE have been led, by the good hand of God, along the path of life, to the spring season of a new year. For this mercy, as for countless others, we are indebted to His forbearing love. The thought of His goodness should inspire a sense of our ingratitude, and awake anew our contrition. The consciousness of our multiplied wanderings from His way and of our unworthiness in His sight, will make our hearts sad if they be not wholly debased: and we shall seek reconciliation with Him through His appointed means. Let us, then, listen to His gracious pleadings, and "sanctify a fast"—it being meet that God be thus, as otherwise, honored.

I do hereby appoint FRIDAY the SIXTH DAY OF APRIL next, to be observed by the people of this State as a day of PUBLIC HUMILIATION, FASTING and PRAYER.

That it may be religiously observed, the people of this State are requested to meet, at that time, in their places of customary public worship and, as well there as in the secret place, humble themselves before the Most High and, confessing their manifold sins, implore forgiveness—and to abstain, that day, from unnecessary labor, and from every indulgence inconsistent with christian or manly decorum.

Let such as acknowledge their dependence on God, and feel that they have not duly remembered His benefits—such as recognize the obligation of obedience to Him, and mourn over their violation of it—such as hope in His mercy through a glorified Saviour, and yet tremble in forethought of the final account to be rendered to the Judge of all the earth—consider with what offerings He is pleased, and hasten to lay them on the altar.

Let all—being subdued by the recollection of their ingratitude for blessings enjoyed—unite to publicly offer, on that occasion, the sacrifice of a broken spirit—

Let the cry of their penitence then ascend to Heaven, that so—it may be—He who dwelleth there shall hear, and answer, and forgive—

Let us not forget that "they that sow in tears, shall reap in joy"—that, thence deriving consolation and fresh hope, we may mingle with our confessions humble prayer—

That, this year, God will crown our labor with sufficient fruits of the earth for sustenance of man and beast—

That He will be pleased to stay the progress of the grim Scourge which has recently touched our border—saving us from "the Pestilence that walketh in darkness," and granting to us the invaluable blessing of health—

That His Spirit will direct us to the selection of wise and just rulers—"such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness"—

That He will confirm and perpetuate civil and religious liberty: breaking the rod of the oppressor and setting free the oppressed—

That he will so overrule the tendencies of hastily increased wealth and dominion, that these acquisitions shall not corrupt us—

That He will regard with favor our colleges, schools, and other educational seminaries: causing the influence of pure religion to blend in harmony with learning—

That He will keep all men in peace with each other—That He will constrain the people of this Commonwealth and of the whole nation, to receive, love, and obey His holy law, and to labor unto salvation by Jesus Christ and his Gospel—that, so, it shall be truly said of us "Happy is that people whose God is the Lord."

Given under my hand, at Windsor, this first day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty nine, and of the Independence of the United States the seventy fourth.

CARLOS COOLIDGE.

BY THE GOVERNOR,

GEORGE F. HOUGHTON, SECRETARY.

Carroll at 11. 1849