

PROCLAMATION

For a Day of public HUMILIATION, FASTING and PRAYER.

IT being our incumbent Duty to acknowledge GOD, in all our Ways, and to commit all our Affairs, both public and private, to his almighty Direction and Guidance; and especially, in a Day of singular, and general Calamity, to implore his merciful Interposition; and it having been the laudable Practice of this Government, to recommend, and appoint Days of public Fasting and Prayer, upon special and solemn Occasions; and this Court apprehending the present Season to be big with the most important Events, not only to this, but to all THE UNITED AMERICAN COLONIES, and sensible that these Events are at the Disposal of the Supreme Governor of the Universe:

WE have thought fit, with the Advice of Council, and at the Desire of the House of Representatives, to appoint, and do hereby set apart THURSDAY the first Day of August next, to be observed, throughout this Colony, as a Day of solemn Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer; hereby calling upon Ministers and People, publickly to humble themselves under the righteous Hand of GOD; penitently to acknowledge their many heinous, and aggravated Sins, and the Righteousness of his Dispensations toward them: With devout, and importunate Supplications to implore Almighty GOD, that the Frowns of his Providence, manifested by the severe Drought wherewith some Parts of the Land have been visited, and all the humiliating Events which have lately taken Place in America, may, under the divine Influence, produce a sincere Repentance, and thorough Reformation among all Orders, and Degrees of Persons; that He would mercifully remove the present Tokens and Effects of his righteous Displeasure against us, and prevent those more severe Judgments that our Sins deserve; and which, in the present Aspects of Divine Providence, we are warned to prepare for;— That he would command his Blessing upon all our public Councils in this important Crisis of our political Affairs; protect and preserve the Life of our General, his Officers, and Soldiers; succeed and prosper their Arms, wherever employed; that our cruel, and unnatural Enemies may be defeated in their open Attempts, secret Plots, and diabolical Machinations to subjugate, or destroy us; and this People, placing their Hope and Confidence in that GOD, in whom their patriotic, and pious Fathers trusted, and were delivered, may be disposed, with manly Cheerfulness to offer themselves for the Defence of their bleeding COUNTRY, and of those Rights, civil and religious, upon the Enjoyment of which, the Peace and Happiness of the present, and future Generations depend; that he will be pleased to hear the Cry of the Prisoner, and grant a speedy Liberation to all our captivated Brethren; that he would Water the Earth with timely refreshing Showers, and cause this Year to abound with Health, and Plenty; and prevent the spreading of any epidemical Sickness among us; that he would put a stop to the wanton Effusion of human Blood, guard and defend our Sea-Coasts from the Invasions of those Sons of War, destin'd by Britain indiscriminately to burn and destroy;— That he would protect our Frontiers from the Inroads of the Northern Savages: That he would pour out of his Spirit upon this People, and his Blessing upon their Offspring; and that he would spread the peaceful Kingdom of the DIVINE REDEEMER over the Face of the WHOLE HABITABLE WORLD.

And all servile Labour and Recreation are forbidden on the said Day.

GIVEN at the Council-Chamber at Watertown, this fourth Day of July, in the Year of our LORD 1776.

JAMES BOWDOIN,
JFR. POWELL,
CALEB CUSHING,
J. WINTHROP,
RICH. DERBY, Junr.
ELDAD TAYLOR,
JOHN WETCOMB,
SAMUEL HOLIEN,
JABEZ FISHER,
MOSES GILL,
JOHN TAYLOR,
BENJ. WHITE,
WILLIAM PHILLIPS,
BENJ. AUSTIN,
HENRY GARDNER,
DANIEL DAVIS,
D. SEWALL,
D. HOPKINS,
FRANCIS DANA.

By their Honor's Command,

JOHN AVERY, Jun. Dep. Sec'y.

G O D Save A M E R I C A !