



BY HIS EXCELLENCY

WILLIAM W. ELLSWORTH,

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT,

A PROCLAMATION.

The religious sentiment is one of the most powerful impulses of the human mind. All nations, in every age of the world, have believed in the existence of some superior power, and have had their peculiar religious rites. Often indeed it had its origin amid the lowest depths of ignorance and depravity, and led to the grossest idolatry and the wildest fanaticism. The history of the world through long ages of darkness and error, has proved the insufficiency of unaided human reason to discover the light of religious truth. To the Holy Scriptures we are indebted for all certain knowledge of the nature and character of the Supreme Being, our dependence upon and obligations to Him as our Creator, Preserver, Redeemer and Ruler.

Belief in the inspiration of the Scriptures leads to the contemplation of the Deity in the physical world in which His infinite power, design and benevolence are so fully displayed: it impels also to the study of man, made at first in the image of his Creator, but presenting on every hand the proofs of a fallen, ruined state. Through disobedience to our Maker's will, sin entered the world, and with sin came pain, want, hardened indifference and blighted hope. Hence, to the reflecting mind, the just apprehension of God's righteous displeasure, the consciousness of guilt, the discovery of its own helplessness, and the sense of its need of an Almighty deliverer. To such a Being how natural and becoming is the attitude of humiliation and prayer, to deprecate the merited anger of a Holy God upon individual, as well as upon national offences. And how suitable is it for all this people to unite in making confession of sin to their common Father, as one family, with one heart and one voice to pour out their supplications to a prayer hearing God, "whose compassions fail not."

For this purpose, in accordance with established usage, I do hereby appoint *Friday the twenty-fifth day of March next*, to be observed throughout this State as a day of **FASTING, HUMILIATION AND PRAYER**; and invite the people on said day, to review their lives during the past year, with christian faithfulness; to assemble in their respective places of worship, and with deep humiliation of spirit implore the pardon of Almighty God; to be humbled for the little reverence there is among us for His authority, and His sacred word and institutions; for our cold and thankless reception of temporal and spiritual benefits; for the existence of pride, falsehood, avarice, intemperance, injustice and discontent; for disregard to the claims of the poor and ignorant and oppressed in our own, and in heathen lands; for the continuance of the traffic in human beings in this free republic; for a spirit of war fostered and unrebuked; for the restless ambition, violence and party zeal manifested in our public councils, as well as for the want of activity and liberality in the promulgation of the truths of our holy religion.

While we mourn for the past, let prayer be offered that God would continue to bless this State; that He would direct us in the path of duty; make us acknowledge His supremacy; avert the consequences of our sins, and perpetuate our numerous civil and philanthropic institutions.

Let prayer likewise be made for the President of these United States and for all that are in authority, that they may be inspired with the fear of God, the love of their fellow men, and a hearty devotion to the country which has entrusted her dearest interests to their wisdom and integrity.

Given under my hand and the seal of said State, at Hartford, this 25th day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-two, and the Independence of the United States, the sixty-sixth.

WILLIAM W. ELLSWORTH.

By his Excellency's command,

ROYAL R. HINMAN, Secretary of State.