

BY HIS EXCELLENCY
JONAS GALUSHA ESQUIRE.

GOVERNOR, CAPTAIN-GENERAL AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF IN AND OVER THE STATE OF VERMONT.

A PROCLAMATION.

“**I**N all thy ways, acknowledge” God, “and he shall direct thy paths.” The duty and the happiness of man are inseparably connected. What God enjoins, reason approves, & our true interest requires. Being dependant on God for life and all its enjoyments, as well as the soul-animating hope of future bliss, we are under the highest obligation to love and serve him : And having, by disobedience, provoked his divine indignation, and rendered ourselves obnoxious to his righteous judgments, it becomes our imperious duty, and only safety, to return to the Lord, with full purpose of heart ; confess our sins, implore his forgiveness, and trust in his mercy. Especially at a time like the present, when our overflowing cup of blessings heightens every duty, when recent and awful manifestations of God’s holy displeasure, evince his disapprobation of our ways, and at a season of the year, in which we rely upon the gracious smiles of his providence, to succeed the labors of the husbandman, in preparing the ground, and committing to the earth the precious seed, on the product of which the lives of the rich and the poor alike depend ; it behoveth, that in a manner public and social, as well as penitential and devout, we supplicate and adore that Almighty being, whose favor is life, and whose loving kindness is better than life.

Under these considerations, I have deemed it suitable to appoint, and by the advice of the Council, I do hereby appoint, *WEDNESDAY, THE SEVENTEENTH DAY OF APRIL NEXT, a day of public Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer* throughout this state. And I do hereby earnestly desire and request Ministers and People, of every religious order, to convene at their usual places of public worship, on that day, and there in a humble, solemn and reverential manner, unite in the worship of the Lord our God, whose tender mercy, notwithstanding our repeated and aggravated offences, still endures, and by reason of whose compassion we are not consumed ; entreating that he would not suffer our sins to separate between us & him, nor our iniquities to hide his face from us : but that he would propitiously hear our prayers, and pardon our faults. Under a deep sense of the depravity of our hearts, and the unworthiness of our characters, let us approach the throne of divine grace, relying upon the merits of the Savior, as the only medium, through which we can have access to the divine Father, and hope for the forgiveness of our sins and the enjoyment of his favor. While, with humility, we acknowledge our own transgressions, may we suitably deplore the prevalence of vices so destructive to man, and so offensive in the sight of God ; and lament, that ingratitude and the abuse of mercies should characterize a people, on whom heaven has so richly bestowed its choicest blessings. And while with trembling, we reflect on the late tokens of the displeasure of the Almighty, let us turn from our sins, which have provoked his anger, lest he

visit us with weightier judgments. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and turn unto the Lord, who will have mercy, and to our God, who will abundantly pardon. When, by fasting, we attempt to humble ourselves in divine presence, be it remembered that the fast which the Lord has chosen, is to loose the bands of wickedness, undo heavy burdens, let the oppressed go free, and deal our bread to the hungry. And may a day’s abstinence from the comforts of life, cause those in prosperity to realize and pity the wants of the poor and needy, incline all our hearts to benevolence and our hands to deeds of charity ; knowing that we alike are dependant on a benevolent God for all the comforts and blessings we enjoy, both temporal and spiritual. While suppliant, in prayer, before the Father of mercies, let us beseech him to check the course of vice, and save the rising generation from its contaminating effects—That he would cause his Sabbaths to be duly regarded, his laws and institutions obeyed, and his name revered—That he would make the ministers of his word, eminently the reformers of mankind, and render the gospel they preach, the power of God unto salvation : That he would succeed the labors of missionaries, and the efforts of missionary societies to spread the pure light of the gospel throughout the heathen world—That he would support and prosper all civil institutions, established on the basis of justice, and for the promotion of human happiness—That he would cause our schools and seminaries of learning to send forth pure and salubrious streams of knowledge—That he would cause the earth to yield her fruits in their season, richly to reward the toils of industry—That he would prosper every class of our citizens, in their daily occupations and laudable pursuits—That he would direct, and bless the President of the United States, the two houses of Congress, the state Legislatures, and all the officers in the various departments of the national and state governments—That he would cause party spirit, that bane of social happiness, to become extinct, and harmony and friendship every where to prevail—That he would continue to this nation the blessings of peace, with the full enjoyment of rational liberty, both civil and religious—That he would revive the true spirit of christianity among us, cause the light of divine truth to dispel the shades of moral darkness, throughout the habitable world ; and grant that the peace, which the nations at present enjoy, may be matured in righteousness, become equitable, liberal and permanent ; that it may prove to be a prelude to that glorious peace which the blest Messiah shall establish on earth, when kings and princes shall become his willing subjects, and all the inhabitants of the earth submit to his righteous reign.

And I do hereby recommend to the people of this state, to suspend all recreations and unnecessary labor on said day.

*GIVEN under my hand, at Shaftsbury, this fifth day of March, in the year of Christ one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.
and of the Independance of the United States the fortieth.*

JONAS GALUSHA.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY’S COMMAND,

R. C. MAILLARD, Secretary.