

# I N C O N G R E S S,

S A T U R D A Y, *March* 16, 1776.

**I**N 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, publickly to acknowledge the over-ruling 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 invaluable rights and privileges, and to reduce us by fire and sword, by the savages of the wilderness and our own domestics, 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 mediations 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 further effusion of kindred blood. But if continuing deaf to the voice of

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*By Order of Congress,*

**J O H N H A N C O C K,** *President.*

*Attest.* **C H A R L E S T H O M S O N,** *Secretary.*