

BY HIS EXCELLENCY,

WILLIAM A. PALMER,

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

A PROCLAMATION.

THAT the Most High rules in the earth, and is Governor among the nations;—that with

Him it rests to build, to plant, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy;—that the divine indignation is awake against degenerate and guilty communities, and that penitence and reformation are indispensably requisite to ensure mercy and forgiveness—to conciliate the favor and avert the judgments of Heaven—are truths taught in the volume of inspiration and acknowledged by all Christians. Moved by considerations like these, our pious ancestors established the custom, at the opening of the season and the commencement of the labors of seed time, of consecrating a day to the purpose of humbling themselves before God for their offences—of imploring him, through the merits of their Redeemer, to pardon their sins, and of asking his gracious assistance during the coming year.

In conformity to this laudable custom, I have thought fit to appoint, and by advice of the Council, *do hereby appoint* WEDNESDAY, THE FOURTH DAY OF APRIL NEXT, to be observed as a day of HUMILIATION, FASTING and PRAYER throughout this State. And I do hereby recommend to ministers and to people of every religious denomination, to suspend all recreation and unnecessary labor on that day—to assemble at their respective places of public worship, and, with hearts devout and sincere, to unite in the spiritual, as well as formal, worship of that God from whom we have derived our being, and received all our spiritual and temporal blessings—on whom we depend for all future good, and to whom we are accountable for the deeds done in the body.—

Under a deep sense of our unworthiness, and, in the blessed name of our Redeemer, let us address the throne of grace, acknowledge our transgressions and implore the forgiveness of our God, and the influence of his grace to direct us in our desires, and in all our attempts to serve him. While we acknowledge the peculiar favors we enjoy, especially the privilege of a free government, protecting us equally in our civil and religious rights—the paternal care which he has extended to us in times of imminent peril and danger—the lights of science—the glorious manifestations of his spirit and the astonishing displays of his grace, in bringing such multitudes from the darkness of sin into the glorious liberty of the gospel; let us mourn our past abuse of his goodness—that, for all the benefits and blessings bestowed upon us, we have manifested so little gratitude—have indulged so many sinful propensities, and that vice is found so generally to prevail among us.

While we deplore our faults and follies, and the wickedness which is still suffered to abound in the world, let us earnestly and devoutly offer up our prayers to Almighty God, that he would continue his goodness towards us—that he would graciously smile upon our common country—that he would bless the Chief Magistrate of the Union, and all in authority in our national and state governments—that he would so direct, that all their measures may promote the best good of the country, and that they may bear constantly in mind, that they are not elected for their own benefit, but are the vicegerents of God for good to the people:

That he would smile on the various pursuits of our citizens—bless our agriculture, commerce and manufactures,—and especially make our schools and literary institutions nurseries of piety and usefulness, where our youth may be trained up in the pure principles of religion, and in the true and genuine spirit of our free republican institutions, that our citizens may continue to practice virtue and avoid those vices which have proved the bane of all free governments:

That he would enable the ministers of religion to be faithful in their calling, teaching in the true and genuine spirit of their divine master—that charity may be extended until it encompass the whole earth—that superstition and idolatry may be every where destroyed—oppression and tyranny annihilated, and mankind, in every clime, be restored to their equal and just rights.

Let us unitedly entreat the blessing of the Most High on the labors of the field, that he would send us fruitful seasons, and prosper the former and the latter harvest. And let us earnestly pray that the blessing of health may be continued to us—that the “pestilence that walketh in darkness,” and the desolating scourge which is now sweeping so widely and destructively over the old world may be mercifully stayed; finally, that the happy day may soon come, when vice and immorality shall cease, and when HE shall rule and reign, whose right it is, and the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Given under my hand, at Danville, this first day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, and of the Independence of the United States the fifty-sixth.

WILLIAM A. PALMER.

By his Excellency the Governor,

EDWARD D. BARBER, Secretary.

