

IN PROVINCIAL CONGRESS,

EXETER, June 6, 1775.

WHereas it has pleased the Righteous GOVERNOR of the World to permit evil Men, on both Sides of the *Atlantick*, to ripen their Plots against the *Liberties* of *America* into Violence, and begin a *Scene of Bloodshed* in this Land ; in order to force from us an *entire Surrender of those Blessings of Freedom* which our *Fathers* fought, and so *dearly purchased, in the Settlement of this Country*. And whereas, with an almost entire Union, it has been thought necessary to raise, within this Colony, a Body of Men for the Purpose of opposing our Enemies in their manifest further Designs of Violence--- It is highly suitable for us to bear in Mind, that GOD alone can effectually guide our further Counsels, and give Success to our Measures ; and that while we appeal to Him, as the *Almighty FRIEND of Justice*, we should repose all the Confidence of our Souls in Him, without whose Blessing, *Arms and Counsels are but Weakness and Folly* :---- Therefore, in Obedience to the *Universal KING*, who hath commanded us to call on Him in the Day of Trouble ; and in Imitation of the faithful Subjects of GOD in every Age, who have ever found the Throne of Grace of *easiest Access*, when earthly Powers were deaf to Justice:---

We have Resolved to recommend, and it is hereby recommended to all the Friends of Justice and their Country in this Colony, That *Thursday* the twenty-second Day of this Instant, be observed as a Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer, and that a total Abstinence from servile Labor and Diversions be observed.

We earnestly recommend to all Ministers and Religious Societies, that they devoutly improve said Day in Confessions of Sin, and in imploring the Divine Forgiveness and Favor, in all Respects ; and especially, that we may enjoy the Divine Blessing on our Endeavors to avoid the Usurpations, and repel the Violence of the British Ministry ; that if it may be, the Eyes of our Enemies in Britain may be opened, and Peace, with Justice and Humanity, be restored between Britain and the Colonies ; or that, if the Counsels of Heaven do not allow this, that the Righteousness and ancient Kindness of GOD to this Land, may be display'd, in opening to us the Path of true LIBERTY : And, in order hereto, that all bethink themselves of what they have done to provoke GOD, and break off from Profaneness, Injustice, Intemperance, Selfishness, and all Kinds of Extravagance ; and remembering that the Laws of GOD are unchangeable, that they consult his Word, and study to live as his faithful Subjects : that Wisdom may be imparted to the Counsels of America, and of each Colony : That our Frontiers and Sea Coasts may be secured from Depredations : That we may be preserved from contagious Sickness : that we may be furnished with the Rain of Heaven and the Fruits of the Earth in their Season : That a truly public Spirit may be maintain'd, spread and flourish in all the Colonies, and that universal Peace and Liberty may soon blast the Designs of Ambition, and open on the World all the Blessings of the Reign of Love.

MATTHEW THORNTON President,

EBENEZER THOMPSON Secretary.