

BY THE HONORABLE
JONATHAN TRUMBULL, Esquire,
Governor, Captain-General, and Commander in Chief in and over the State of CONNECTICUT, in
AMERICA;

A P R O C L A M A T I O N
For a Day of *Fasting and Prayer.*

AT this Season of the Year, our pious Rulers have invariably proclaimed a solemn Assembly, and our religious Predecessors have thereupon observed a Day of Fasting and Prayer---that all might humble themselves before GOD for their public Offences, and every One for his own personal Sins and Miscarriages, whereby he hath provoked GOD, and increased the public Guilt, and done his Part to bring down the Judgments and Vengeance of GOD upon the Land.—Is it not greatly to be feared and lamented that although the Practice hath been kept up, yet we have neglected to perform the Duty aright, in which we have made a shew of Humiliation, banging down our Heads like a Bulrush for a Day, and spreading Sackcloth and Ashes under us; but there is no inward Change of our Minds; no real Reformation of our Lives; but as soon as ever the Public Solemnity is over---every One turneth to his former evil Course. Wherefore GOD's Judgments are executed upon us; an unnatural War is carried on against us, threatening the Loss of our invaluable civil and religious Rights and Liberties,—and the Pestilence is scattered amongst us. Considering that it becometh us in all our Affairs to have the greatest Regard to GOD, the Supreme Disposer of all Things; and earnestly to seek his Favour and Blessing upon our Labours, upon all our Undertakings, and more especially upon the Affairs of the War in which these United States of AMERICA are unhappily, although necessarily engaged, for the Security of their Rights and Privileges. That it is our Duty so to use the Means GOD hath put in our Power, as still to depend upon Him, who can as he pleases, bless the Councils and Endeavours of Men, or blast them and make them of none Effect:—That we should break off our Sins by Repentance—earnestly implore the Blessing of GOD upon our Undertakings; and not only take Care that our Cause be just, but likewise that there be no wicked Thing amongst us, to drive GOD out of our Camp,---that they who fight for us, may not for our Sins and for our Sakes, turn their Backs in the Day of Battle, and fall by the Sword of the Enemy.

IHAVE therefore, by and with the Advice of the Council, thought fit to appoint, and do hereby appoint THURSDAY, the 24th Day of APRIL next, to be a Day of FASTING and PRAYER throughout this State; hereby exhorting both Ministers and People of all Denominations, to humble themselves before GOD—with contrition of Soul confessing their Sins, and intreating his divine Grace, Protection, and Blessing. Particularly, to confess and bewail their neglect and abuses of Gospel Grace, prophanation of the Lord's-Day, and contempt of sacred Things; to mourn for the Pride, Covetousness, Deceit, Profaneness, Incuriabileness, Corruption of Manners, and other Immoralities and Abominations prevalent in the Land,—upon this Day of our Solemnity every one to humble himself for his own Iniquities with the several Aggravations of them, and to know every Man the Plague of his own Heart; to turn from his Sins, and to return unto the Lord, that we may fear Him all the Days which we live in the Land which he gave to our Fathers. To offer up fervent Supplications to Almighty GOD, for plentiful Effusions of his SPIRIT and GRACE upon us,—to work in us unfeigned Faith and Trust in GOD,—to give us true Repentance and thorough Change in Heart and Life,—to restore the ancient Piety and Virtue of the Land,—to prosper our Arms,—to deliver us from the Power of our Enemies,—to turn back our Oppressors and blast their injurious Designs against us,—to quicken and enlarge the Hearts of the People to enter into the Service of GOD and their Country in the Defence of all that is dear and valuable in Life.

And likewise to offer up devout Prayers for the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA in General CONGRESS assembled; that GOD would give them Wisdom, scatter Light and not Darkness in their Paths,—direct their Counsels—and lead them into such just and righteous Measures as shall terminate in the Glory of GOD, the Security, Peace, and Tranquility of the United, Free, and Independent States of America;—preserve the Commander in Chief of our Armies, give him Wisdom, Magnanimity, and Fortitude,—inspire the Officers and Soldiers with Courage and Resolution,—cover their Heads in the Day of Battle,—and make bare his Arm for our Salvation:—Bless and guide our Civil Rulers,—succeed the Gospel Ministry;—smile on the College;—prosper Endeavours for the Conversion of the Heathen;—give suitable Seasons for our Health, and for the Fruits of the Earth;—succeed our Labours and Husbandry,—cause the Earth to yield her Increase, and bless us with a plentiful Harvest;—extricate us out of all our Distresses;—cause true and undefiled Religion to flourish in this, and all these States,—and make known CHRIST and his Salvation to the Ends of the Earth.

And all servile Labour is forbidden on said Day.

GIVEN under my Hand in LEBANON, the 29th Day of March, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Seven.

JONTH TRUMBULL.