

**By the C O U N C I L and House of REPRESENTATIVES,
A P P R O C L A M A T I O N
For a Day of Fasting and Prayer.**

FORASMUCH as it hath pleased ALMIGHTY GOD, that the Inhabitants of this Land should be involved in the Calamities of a civil WAR, which has already brought on the Dismemberment of the UNITED-STATES from the British Empire. AND WHEREAS, the unjust Hostilities of our Enemies and their Invasion of our public Rights, Franchises and Liberties have necessitated the last tremendous Appeal to Heaven; it becomes us, while our Cause is now with GOD, in a United Manner to cast down Ourselves before his Throne with the most lowly prostration of Soul, that filled with a humbling self-abasing Sense of our Impurity and Unworthiness, and overwhelmed with the Sense of his Purity, Holiness, and Glory, we may refer Ourselves, our Country, and the Decision of our momentous Cause, with the most profound submission to his righteous, equitable and just (though most awful) Sovereignty; rejoicing that the Direction and Controul of all Events and the Dominion of all Worlds reside in unerring and consummate Benevolence. And although we are innocent of any Violation of public Honor or breach of Compact with the parent state, and its reigning Prince, sufficient, according to the Laws of Nature and Nations, to legitimate the heavy Severities and unexampled Cruelties of Great-Britain: Yet so atrocious have been our Violations of the Divine Law, and so aggravated our Transgressions in the sight of Heaven, that it becomes us deeply to humble Ourselves before the Sovereign of the Universe, to acknowledge the Justice and Holiness of his Government even in utterly destroying us, much more in subjecting us to the Loss of that Liberty we have abused, or otherwise executing his Judgments and Vengeance by whatever Instruments he pleaseth, suffering the Love of Brethren to be turned into Hatred, and their Wrath to be kindled into a devouring Flame, that they may thereby become the natural Chastisers of each others Apostacy. AND WHEREAS, there are sundry important Enterprizes and Designs of vast public Moment and Consequence now in Agitation and soon to be determined, which require great Deliberation, Wisdom and Council, it becomes us as a religious People to carry these weighty Concerns to the GOD of our FATHERS, and accompany them with our United Supplication and most fervent Importunity at the Throne of Grace. AND WHEREAS, there are some particular Sins prevalent at the present Day which especially call for Humiliation, Repentance, and Amendment, as we would hope for the Removal of public Judgments, a final Victory in the present Warfare, and the firm Establishment of our Liberty, Independence and Tranquility.

WE Have therefore thought fit, and do hereby appoint THURSDAY THE SIXTEENTH DAY of APRIL next, to be observed and kept as a Day of FASTING AND PRAYER throughout this STATE; Hereby exhorting all, both Ministers and People, to assemble at their respective Places of Worship, and with Humility to attend the Solemnities of a day of PRAYER and SUPPLICATION: Recommending it to all, to consider and lament the crying Sins and Abominations for which our Land mourns, each one to review his own sinfulness, to meditate on the powerful Motives of Repentance and Reformation, and to implore Forgiveness through the Merits of JESUS CHRIST; to supplicate the Blessings of Heaven upon our Agriculture, Manufactures and Commerce, and upon all the Labour of our Hands, beseeching GOD to order the seasons in Mercy, give us suitable Seed Time, and Harvest, give us Health in our Habitations, and crown the Year with his Goodness: And while the conspicuous Tokens of the Divine Presence with us in the Success and Victories granted us ought to confirm our unshaken Confidence in the supreme Protector, it is hereby recommended to all to unite in supplicating the Continuance of the Blessing and Smiles of Heaven upon our public Affairs, especially upon the Occurrences, Transactions and Events of the ensuing Campaign, that GOD would inspire and animate us more and more in the glorious Cause of Liberty, and carry us triumphantly through the vast Designs and arduous Enterprizes of the present Day: that GOD would impart Wisdom to those who are intrusted with the Conduct of our political Affairs in every department, that he would direct the Councils of the General CONGRESS, and the Legislatures of the UNITED STATES; that HE would bless and succeed our Fleet and Army; that HE would continue to pour down true Greatness of Mind, Firmness, Wisdom, and every Military Virtue into the Breast of the General and Commander in Chief of the AMERICAN HOSTS, and protect his important Life, that GOD would pour down Intrepidity, Fortitude, and Valour into the several Generals, and Officers of every subordination and into the whole Body of the Troops, preserve their Health, cover their Heads in the Day of Battle, and crown them with Victory and Triumph: That GOD would preserve and strengthen that wonderful Union which we humbly trust has been excited by the Energy and Influence of Heaven: and that lesser Differences may be swallowed up in extended and patriotic Views, and still more particularly, that GOD would be pleased to vouchsafe his peculiar Influence, Guidance, and Blessing with Respect to the PLAN OF CONFEDERATION now forming, that no Seeds of future Tyranny may enter into it; that finding the CONGRESS annual, its Powers defined and ascertained, its Members subject to the Instructions of their Constituents, and revocable at Pleasure, the separate and independent Sovereignty of each State being secured both for internal Government and repelling external Injury, the People at large may rest satisfied in the Wisdom and Safety of the CONFEDERACY; and that being established by CONGRESS upon the public Voice and Concurrence of the several Legislatures, it may by the Blessing of GOD compleat our INDEPENDENCY, and render it permanent and glorious; with fervent Prayer to ALMIGHTY GOD for his Blessing upon this State in the important Work of forming a PLAN OF GOVERNMENT, by giving his People one Heart to assemble in Convention by Representatives delegated from the several Towns throughout the State, granting his Presence and Direction with the Convention, enabling them with Union, Harmony and Wisdom to devise, investigate, and construct such a Policy, and Plan of Government, as being remitted to the several Towns may approve itself to the Judgment and Acceptance of the Public, and so by the Authority of the People of the State, receiving a final Establishment, may lay the Foundation of a happy, civil, Administration, and of the lasting security of all our Liberties, Rights, and Immunities, civil secular, and religious; uniting our Requests at the Throne of Grace for the Effusion of the Spirit of GOD upon the civil Magistracy of this State, upon the Churches, upon the Schools and seats of Learning, upon the Means and Endeavors used for the Propagation of the Gospel among Heathen, and unchristianized Nations; that the rightful Kingdom of our Lord JESUS CHRIST being established to the Ends of the Earth, all Nations may be rescued from Tyranny, and the whole World be happily recovered to the permanent Enjoyment of Peace, Liberty and Virtue.

And all servile LABOUR and RECREATION are forbidden on said Day.

Dated at EXETER the eleventh Day of March, Anno Domini. One thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, and in the second Year of AMERICAN INDEPENDENCY.

M. WEARE,) PRESIDENT of
THE COUNCIL.

E. THOMPSON, Secretary.

G O D S A V E T H E U N I T E D - S T A T E S O F A M E R I C A .