

STATE OF VERMONT.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

EZRA BUTLER, Esquire,

Governor and Captain-General, and Commander in Chief in and over the State of Vermont.

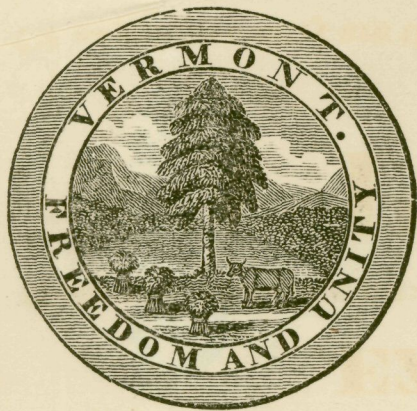
A PROCLAMATION.

IN no other country are the rights of man so well understood and so fully enjoyed as in our own.

The reason of this is no other than the general diffusion of the knowledge and influence of that divine revelation, which teaches us in all our ways to acknowledge God, and which has led to the practice of religiously observing, in the close of each year, a day of public thanksgiving and praise. A practice so congenial to the spirit of piety, so manifestly dictated by the blessings we enjoy, and so distinctly marking the character of our pious forefathers, by whom it was introduced, should never be abandoned.

I do, therefore, at the request of the House of Representatives,

and by the advice of the Council, appoint THURSDAY, THE SEVENTH DAY OF DECEMBER NEXT, to be observed as a day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING, PRAISE AND PRAYER, throughout this state; and I do earnestly recommend to the ministers of religion and their respective congregations, and to all the people of the state, to withdraw from the common avocations of life, and from all recreations and amusements, and to consecrate the day to the contemplation of the riches of divine goodness, and to the public and private worship of God. In every place of public worship, let there be an holy convocation of the people, that with united hearts we may praise the Lord for his goodness and for his wonderful works to the children of men. Let us commemorate his kindness in continuing to us our dear-bought national privileges, civil and religious; in preserving us from foreign war and domestic dissension; in granting so general health to our citizens; in prospering to such a degree their various pursuits, that notwithstanding the prevalence of drought and insects in some sections of the country, the supports of life are provided for all. Let us be grateful for all the means of knowledge which are furnished by our colleges, academies and primary schools; and for all those discoveries and improvements which tend to facilitate the useful labours of life, and promote the well-being of society. Above all, let us give thanks for the work of redemption by the death of the Son of God; for the written revelation of his will; for the ministry of reconciliation; for the recent and extensive outpourings of the Holy Spirit in this and in our sister states; for the spirit of active benevolence which characterizes the age, and for all the success which attends the efforts of societies and individuals to enlighten the ignorant, relieve the oppressed, and diffuse among men the blessings of the gospel. And, together, with our tribute of thanksgiving, let us humble ourselves for our abuse of divine goodness, and implore the forgiveness of all our sins. Let us invoke the continued blessing of the Most High, on our state and nation, and on all in authority in the general and state governments: and with an expansive benevolence that embraces the whole family of man, let us pray, that the darkness which covers the earth may be dispelled; that the nations may be enlightened in the knowledge of their rights and the blessings of freedom, and self-government imparted to all. And finally, that the Prince of Peace would take unto himself his great power, and reign; that he would banish from the earth oppression, superstition idolatry, scepticism and all the forms of irreligion and vice, and subject all people under the whole heaven to his righteous dominion.



GIVEN under my hand, in Council Chamber, at Montpelier, this seventh day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six; and of the Independence of the United States the fifty-first.

EZRA BUTLER.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

DANIEL KELLOGG, Secretary.