

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

**MARTIN CHITTENDEN, Esquire,**

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

*A PROCLAMATION.*

UNDER the government of JEHOVAH, there is ever cause of Thanksgiving; though, in particular dispensations, we may have the greatest reason to rejoice with trembling. Our presentation, amidst pestilence and war, the common bounties of Providence, and the richer blessings of Divine Grace, at this time, invite to a tribute of grateful praise. At the close of a season, distinguished by the return of health and plenty, an acceptable Thank-offering must be our reasonable service :

**I HAVE, THEREFORE,** *thought fit, by the advice of the Council, and at the* request of the General Assembly, to appoint THURSDAY, THE SECOND DAY OF DECEMBER NEXT, to be observed as a day of public *THANKSGIVING* and *PRAISE*, throughout this State. And I hereby recommend, to Ministers and People, of every religious denomination, to assemble, on that day, at their usual places of public worship, and, with reverence and sincere devotion, offer to Almighty GOD, through the merits of JESUS CHRIST, ascriptions of gratitude and praise, for the numerous, unmerited blessings which he has been pleased to bestow : That HE hath given us a goodly heritage; preserved and defended us in the enjoyment of our rights, and granted the benefits of a free and happy Constitution : That, though pestilence and war have been permitted to assail us, yet, HIS mercy hath interposed, and we are not consumed—our coasts and frontiers are not destroyed—our Constitution is not overturned; but our Rulers are of ourselves, and our Government of our own choice : That discouragements to enterprise, and useful industry, have not caused them to fail ; but the labors of the Artificer and Husbandman have been successful ; the closing season has been prosperous, and the year crowned with abundant goodness : That health, with attendant blessings, generally prevails, and domestic and social joys continue to gladden the heart. Above all, let us bless GOD that we are still favored with the Word of Life, the means of Grace, and the exalted hopes which the Gospel inspires : That we experience the influences and comfort of the Spirit, and the joys of pardon, through HIM who hath died that we might live.

WHILE we gratefully notice Divine goodness, it is suitable that we remember our vast unworthiness ; that Rulers and People be humble for their own transgressions, and the offences of our land ; that we repent of our profanity, irreligion and licentiousness, of every kind, and seek forgiving mercy through that blood which cleanseth from all sin.

WITH these ascriptions of praise, and humble confession of unworthiness, we should mingle our fervent supplications, that our Heavenly Father would continue, and multiply his favors : That he would avert his judgments, and establish our individual and national prosperity : That embarrassments may be removed from our Commerce ; that our Agriculture and Manufactures may flourish, and the voice of health and plenty continue to be heard. We should earnestly seek, that GOD would smile on the Government and People of this State—causing our laws to be pure and their administration just : That he would have the President of the United States, and all the officers of the General Government, under his holy keeping ; enlighten and direct both Houses of Congress, and cause their united exertions to issue in the public good : That he would guide in our foreign negotiations—hastening the speedy return of peace, and the permanent establishment of our liberty and independence : That every section of our country may be protected, our citizens, of all descriptions, preserved from distress, captivity and slaughter ; and the union, harmony and prosperity of the several States perpetuated.

LET us beseech the Only Wise GOD, that he would bless our schools, preside in our seminaries of learning, and give success to every useful improvement : That he would enable the Ministers of Religion to extend the saving knowledge of the Gospel, attend their labors with abundant success, and incline the hearts of all nations to receive the truth, as it is in JESUS : That he would cause war to cease ; dispel the clouds of ignorance and delusion ; remove every cause of division and contention, and fill the whole earth with the light of the knowledge of the glory of GOD.

It is earnestly recommended to the People, of every class, to abstain from all improper recreations, and unnecessary labor, on that day.

*GIVEN* under my hand, in Council Chamber, at Montpelier, this tenth day of November, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States, the thirty eighth.

**MARTIN CHITTENDEN.**

BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND,  
SAMUEL SWIFT, *Secretary.*