

By His Excellency
JONAS GALUSHA, Esquire,
GOVERNOR, CAPTAIN GENERAL, AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF, IN AND OVER THE
STATE OF VERMONT.
A PROCLAMATION,

THE stupendous objects that surround us, the vast scenes that disclose to our view, the astonishing events that arrest our attention, together with the consciousness of our own minds, and the solemn sanction of revelation indicate, and establish, beyond the possibility of a rational doubt, the existence of an invisible hand, to whose mysterious power and skill, must be attributed the production, sustentation, and control of all things. Hence as nothing is more apparent than our entire and constant dependence on a perfectly independent God, nothing can be more reasonable than to deem ourselves highly responsible to the great author of our being and blessings, for the due improvement of our every endowment. The weight of this obligation seems to be enhanced by a consideration of the divine beneficence manifest in elevating us to the summit of this lower creation, in point of dignity, capacity and enjoyment; and rendering various ranks of subordinate beings, both animate and inanimate, conducive to our support, and subservient to our happiness.

While the numerous grades of irrational creatures, by moving in the sphere, and accomplishing the end, for which they were respectively designed, glorify their all wise creator, and by obeying the voice and trembling at the scourge of man, silent, yet submissively acknowledge his superiority, we who enjoy the faculty of reason and the prerogative of speech, are doubly bound to own the supremacy of our God, bow humbly at his feet, and cheerfully obey his will. But the perfection of Deity, the purity and strictness of his law, contrasted with the depravity of our hearts and the great default of our lives, must evince, that by violating his precepts, we have offended the august Majesty of heaven, and become obnoxious to his indignant and eternal frown. Wherefore our only refuge is his grace.

And as sin the common evil has involved us all in the same deplorable predicament, it behooves us, unitedly and publicly, to prostrate ourselves before him, to tender our acknowledgments, and present our petitions. For such a social and penitential service, there cannot be a more suitable occasion, than that season of the year which invites the husbandman into his field, to commit to the bosom of the earth the hopeful pledges of our future support; as that season awakens a sense of our dependence on the indulgent smile of him, without whose aid the sower toils in vain.

I HAVE, therefore, thought proper to appoint, and with the advice of the Council. I do hereby appoint, *WEDNESDAY, THE TWENTY-FIRST DAY OF APRIL NEXT, to be observed as a day of public FASTING HUMILIATION and PRAYER;* throughout this state.

And I do hereby unfeignedly desire, and earnestly solicit, Ministers and people of every religious name, to assemble at their respective places of public worship on said day; and in the most solemn, reverential, and humble manner, engage in the sacred rites of divine service. On such an occasion it will be suitable for us, with the deepest contrition and godly sorrow, to confess our numerous, aggravated, and reiterated offences; and in the name of the righteous Redeemer, beseech the Father of mercies to grant us the free and full pardon of all our sins. We cannot be insensible, that as a people, in addition to no small degree of the common vices of mankind, we are guilty of extreme ingratitude, by not improving, but perverting the most signal blessings that in any age, in any country, ever distinguished the most favored sons of men. It should be a subject of deep regret and pious grief, that where all the inducements to love and obey God, to regard and do good to our fellow creatures are enjoyed, so little benevolence, so little vital or practical godliness is to be found; that where all the restraints of civilization, of science and religious education are in operation, so much iniquity still prevails; when we realize that where much is given, much is required and compare our privileges with those of the oppressed, benighted, and bigoted nations of the earth, we may well blush and mourn. While we see the ravages of vice abound, and while we feel the miseries it procures, let us establish in our hearts the firm resolve, to resist its baneful influence and strive to rescue the unhappy victims of its deadly embrace. Viewing the necessity of the efficacious grace of God, to eradicate sin from the human heart, and effectually to reform the habits of life, let us importune the saviour of men to interpose, and preserve, especially the rising generation, from those immoralities, which tend to taint the youthful mind, to corrode the virtues of the heart, and destroy the dearest hopes of the immortal soul. While with deep humiliation we acknowledge our follies and our crimes, let us not fail to cherish the most grateful emotions of soul, and offer sincere thanks to God, for the rich profusion of his blessings, which, notwithstanding our exceeding demerit we are still permitted to participate.

Let us also raise our ardent supplications to the great and gracious disposer of all events, that he would still deal propitiously with us; that he would preserve our state and nation, in the full uninterrupted, and lasting enjoyment of all our civil, religious, temporal, and spiritual privileges; that he would bless all our means of knowledge, foster every useful art, order the seasons of the year in much mercy, and cause the earth to be productive as in former years; that he would bless every class of our citizens in their respective avocations, and awaken all the latent energies of an enlightened and assiduous people, to alleviate the sufferings of depressed humanity, and increase the sum of human happiness; that he would tenderly regard Him who presides in the grand council of our nation, in the discharge of his arduous duties, uphold and guide all vested with authority, in the general and state governments; that he would cause the pure religion of the Prince of Peace to reign in every heart and prevail in every circle throughout our land; that he would grant success to the benevolent efforts, which are increasing with astonishing rapidity in this and almost every christian country, to promote the rising glory of our Redeemer's empire, and the eternal welfare of unhappy millions, who now dwell in dark places of the earth, which are full of the habitations of cruelty.

And finally, that he would cause the sun of Righteousness to arise upon the isles of the sea, and the gloomy abodes of the earth, to usher in that glorious flood of light, which shall chase the last shades of moral darkness from the world; when every mind shall be luminous with his beams, and every heart, and every voice concordant in his praise.

And I do hereby recommend to the people of this state, to suspend all recreations and unnecessary labors on said day.

GIVEN under my hand, at Shaftsbury, this twenty-fourth day of February, in the year of our Lord Christ, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States, the forty-third.

JONAS GALUSHA.

By His Excellency's command,
ROLIN C. MALLERY, Secretary