

JONAS GALUSHA, Esquire,

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

A P R O C L A M A T I O N .

IT being a dictate of reason confirmed by Revelation, that mankind are dependant on the Supreme Being for all the blessings they enjoy, it therefore appears highly proper at all times to render our devout acknowledgements to him for the numerous favors he bestows upon us.

AS many of the divine favors are of a public nature, so it seems suitable that our offerings of Gratitude should be publicly made; and peculiarly proper that at this season of the year, when the ingathering of the latter harvest has closed the labors of the husbandman in the field, to offer unfeigned ascriptions of praise to Almighty God, who has graciously caused the earth to yield its harvest, and crowned the past year with signal blessings.

I have therefore thought fit with and by the advice of the Council and at the request of the House of Representatives to appoint, and I do hereby appoint the **FIRST THURSDAY OF DECEMBER NEXT** to be observed as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise throughout this State. And I hereby recommend to ministers and people of every religious denomination to refrain on said day, from all recreations and servile labor, except such as are dictated by necessity or mercy, and to assemble at their respective places of public worship and join in devout prayer and praise to God for all the mercies of our lives and particularly for the displays of his goodness the past year.

TO approach his Mercy Seat with a becoming sense of our own unworthiness; to prostrate ourselves before his throne and with contrite hearts, to confess our manifold sins which have rendered us unworthy the least of his favors. To bless and praise his holy name, that though he has been pleased to lessen the increase of the latter harvest, he hath not in his displeasure consigned us to the distressing calamity of famine. That whilst pestilence hath made its fatal ravages in other countries, we have enjoyed so general measure of health: that while the world is deluged with human blood and the sword of war is depopulating the fairest regions of Europe we have had peace in our borders:—that the arts and sciences have flourished among us and that our increasing manufactures have in a good degree averted the evils of an embarrassed commerce: that our privileges civil and religious have been preserved— that the laws by which we are governed are of our own making and our rulers are from the midst of our brethren: that the rights of conscience are free and every one may worship God according to its dictates: that he has been graciously pleased to favor and protect the Government of this State and that of the Union.

BUT above all to bless and magnify his Holy name that we have the inestimable privileges of the Holy Scriptures and the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that in many of our towns, there has been a revival of Religion and many turned from the error of their ways to the wisdom of the just: That he has sent his ambassadors into pagan nations and their labors have been crowned with success; and that he is affording us the presages that the glorious time is hastening on when the gospel of our benevolent Saviour shall be spread from the rising to the setting sun, and from the rivers to the ends of the earth.

AND while we bless and praise him for past mercies with fervent and sincere hearts to supplicate a continuance of his divine favors:—that he would regard us in the uncommon scarcity of bread and in his mercy remember the poor, the fatherless and the widow: that he would bless our Colleges, Academies and Schools and make them instrumental of the diffusion of useful knowledge, virtue and piety: That he would bless our agriculture and manufactures, restore freedom to commerce, that he would preserve us from contagious sickness; that he would restrain the progress of vice and irreligion and avert and remove the tokens of divine displeasure from among us: that he would protect the Government of this State and afford to our rulers wisdom to discern and integrity to pursue the best interests of the people and prosper all such public institutions as are beneficial to our citizens: that he would bless the Government of the United States, and graciously regard the life and health of the President thereof, and endue him with wisdom and prudence necessary to discern and direct our national concerns in this difficult hour:— that he would bless the Vice President the Senate and House of Representatives of the Union and prosper all their measures which may tend to the welfare of their constituents— that he would bless the people of these United States with his choicest blessings: that he would diffuse a spirit of candor and brotherly love among them and unite them in the true interests of their common country— that he would dispose the belligerent powers to peace, remove the restraints upon our national commerce, restore a friendly intercourse with other nations and save us from the dreadful calamities of war— and finally that he would cause the peaceable principles of the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to fill the whole earth as the waters cover the sea.

Given under my hand in Council Chamber, this 20th day of October, A. D. 1809, and on the thirty fourth of the Independence of the United States.

JONAS GALUSHA.

*By his Excellency's command,
R. C. MALLARY Secretary.*