

**STATE OF VERMONT.**  
**BY JOHN S. ROBINSON.**  
**GOVERNOR.**

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**A PROCLAMATION.**

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WHEREAS, it is befitting the character of an intelligent, moral and christian people, to acknowledge the existence of a Supreme intelligence, and His providence, in the affairs of men and nations, and to observe the time-honored customs of their Forefathers: Now, THEREFORE, in conformity with immemorial usage, sanctioned by the experience and practice of our Puritan ancestors who were the founders of our civil and religious liberties, and to testify our gratitude and sense of obligation for past and present blessings, I do, hereby, appoint **THURSDAY, THE EIGHTH DAY OF DECEMBER** next, to be set apart and observed by the citizens of this State, as a day of **PUBLIC THANKSGIVING** and **PRAISE**.

On that day I need not enjoin the good citizens of this State to suspend their secular labors—to refrain from every unlawful indulgence and amusement, but to assemble at their respective place of worship, and, with grateful and contrite hearts, offer up praise and adoration to the Father of our spirits for his singular goodness and mercy to us as a people and nation,—for implanting in the hearts and minds of our forefathers a knowledge of the true principles of civil and religious liberty,—for enabling them to achieve our independence and establish a frame of Government which exempts us from civil oppression and religious persecution and intolerance. Let us praise Him for the adaptation of the material world for the sustenance and happiness of man,—for the endowment of intelligence to read and understand His divine revelation,—for the enjoyment of moral and religious instruction,—for the opportunity of acquiring both a common and liberal education,—for the advancement in knowledge and in the arts and sciences,—for the skill displayed in the medical and healing art—the wisdom exhibited in the administration of justice—and for the piety, learning and self-denial of the clergy.

Having gathered an abundant harvest, and living in the enjoyment of life, liberty and prosperity, let us not be unmindful of the necessities of the poor, but with a kind heart and a generous and liberal hand, supply the wants of the needy and destitute—extend relief to the sick and afflicted, and may the indigent citizens of the State realize through the liberality of the affluent, the fulfillment of the declaration of Scripture, that “the expectation of the poor shall not always be disappointed.”

*Given under my hand and the seal of the State, in Executive Chamber, at Montpelier, this twenty first day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three and of the Independence of the United States the seventy-eighth.*

**JOHN S. ROBINSON.**

By His Excellency the Governor,

**LEVERETT B. ENGLISBY, Secretary.**

