

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

RICHARD SKINNER,

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

A PROCLAMATION.

THANKSGIVING is due from all finite intelligent beings, to that Infinite Being, the Fountain of intelligence, not only for every blessing enjoyed, but for every exemption from the righteous judgments of Him who hath said "Vengeance is mine." The grateful sensations which rest upon the soul of a reflecting, humble christian, under a realizing sense of his entire demerit of divine favour, and just desert of punishment, and in view of the infinite price paid by the Atoning Mediator, for every blessing conferred, and every deserved chastisement withheld, are beyond the reach of infidel perception.

In surveying the moral and political condition of the nations of the earth, we may truly felicitate ourselves, in the full persuasion, that there are none in which the just rights of all ranks in community, are better protected, and more perfectly enjoyed, than in our own. While other governments are reeling under a cruel burden of tyranny, or expiring under an insupportable weight of despotism, ours is strengthening, and becoming more deeply rooted in the affections of the people.

In reviewing the events of the past year, no general calamitous visitations of Providence are recognized, as having afflicted the people of Vermont. Those temporal judgments which have frequently witnessed the displeasure of God towards a people, have been mercifully withheld—the ministers of vengeance have been restrained, and the shafts of desolation have been averted—industry has been amply rewarded by His munificent hand—rays of divine beneficence have shone round this common wealth, and pervaded our habitations—instead of war and contention, uninterrupted peace and tranquillity has prevailed—instead of pestilence, we have enjoyed health in a degree almost unprecedented—instead of famine, we have been liberally supplied with all the fruits of the earth necessary for sustaining life in the highest possible degree of rational enjoyment. When our attention is turned to events of infinite moment, although our spiritual harvest is lean, our souls diseased with sin, and our consciences testify that all is not peace within, yet a tribute of gratitude is required for the superior religious privileges by us enjoyed, the abundant means with which we are supplied, and the many talents committed to our charge, by which, with wise improvement, divine fruits may be increased, our everlasting interest advanced, and our souls refreshed with a foretaste of heavenly joys. And we are under unspeakable obligations to render unceasing thanksgiving and praise for that mysterious plan of redemption, devised in the councils of Infinite wisdom and goodness, by which a door of hope is opened to the most guilty of fallen men. The precious life of Jesus hath been demanded, and freely surrendered, as a ransom for the souls of sinners. He is the Mediator of a new covenant, by which the triumphs of the cross are secured, the law of God magnified, and everlasting salvation ensured to all who will become interested therein, upon the mild terms of repentance towards God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In recounting the acts of Divine beneficence, I cannot refrain, on this occasion, from noticing that of safely conducting to the shores of New-England, that little band of oppressed Christian worthies, at home the objects of intolerant persecution, ignominy and reproach, who, that they might enjoy civil and religious liberty, denied them in the abode of their fathers, in peril of their lives, fled to this then uncultivated land; and by the kind hand of a protecting Providence, a portion were preserved, unsheltered from the rigor of a protracted winter, amidst barbarians naturally jealous and inhospitable. The anniversary of that day, on which these our progenitors were first permitted to tread the soil destined to be the residence of freemen, and the nursery of rational liberty, ought to stand amongst the first on the calendar of days, worthy of solemn commemoration. Since that interesting period, two centuries will have elapsed on the 22d. day of December next.

IMPRESSED, in a measure, with a sense of the obligation imposed by these signal, and other countless Divine favors, at the request of the General Assembly, and by advice of the Council, I do hereby appoint **FRIDAY, THE TWENTY SECOND DAY OF DECEMBER** next, to be observed as a day of *PUBLIC THANKSGIVING* and *PRAISE*: And do most earnestly request all citizens of this State, ministers and people of every denomination, to refrain on that day, from all secular labour; and to assemble at the usual places of public worship, and with sincere hearts, unite in solemn ascriptions of praise to **ALMIGHTY GOD**, for all the manifestations of his goodness and mercy.

GIVEN under my hand, in Council Chamber, at Montpelier, this thirty first day of October, in the year of our Lord Christ, one thousand eight hundred and twenty—and of the Independence of the United States of America, the forty fifth.

RICHARD SKINNER.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,

ROBERT TEMPLE, SECRETARY.