



BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN COTTON SMITH, ESQ.

GOVERNOUR AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF IN AND OVER THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT,

A PROCLAMATION.

ALTHOUGH it has pleased the MOST HIGH to visit us as a people with His righteous judgments, yet the numerous favours we have individually and collectively received from His beneficent hand, demand our warmest returns of gratitude and praise.

I HAVE therefore thought proper, by and with the advice of the Council, and at the desire of the House of Representatives, to appoint, and I do hereby appoint THURSDAY THE TWENTY-FIFTH day of November next to be observed as a day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER throughout this State; earnestly requesting ministers and people of all denominations to assemble on that day in their several places of religious worship, and offer with one accord to ALMIGHTY GOD a solemn tribute of praise for the bounties of His Providence the past year, particularly, for the preservation of our lives, and the degree of health so generally enjoyed; for His great goodness in shielding us from the ravages of war, and in protecting those of our fellow-citizens who have stood forth in our defence; for His smiles upon the labours of the husbandman in the plentiful production of the fruits of the earth; for the success which has attended the efforts of domestic industry and the prosecution of the useful arts; for the continued enjoyment of a free and equal government, the progress of information amongst our citizens, their persevering attachment to our civil and religious privileges, and for the good order and internal tranquility, which, in a time of peril and alarm, have so eminently prevailed; especially, that we adore the Father of the spirits of all men for the revelation of His will, the high hopes of future blessedness through a glorious Redeemer, and for the unparalleled exertions of the christian world in spreading the knowledge of His salvation.

To these our thankful acknowledgements let us add our fervent prayers to the God of all grace, that He would mercifully forgive our past ingratitude, and, by the events of His Providence, convince us of our dependence, and of His just claim to our unceasing love and obedience: That He would still extend to this commonwealth that powerful protection by which it has been hitherto sustained; give wisdom and energy to our councils and firmness and resolution to all classes of our citizens; afford His gracious presence with our courts of justice, and impart fidelity to those who are intrusted with the execution of the laws: That He would bless the dispensation of His word, smile on our schools and seminaries of learning, and on the various means of useful instruction: That He would prosper us in our lawful undertakings, and dispose us to live in unity and concord with each other, in the exercise of that holy religion, which promotes equally the happiness of individuals, and the prosperity of nations: That He would look with favour upon the President of the United States, and the subordinate officers of our national government; impress them with a solemn sense of the great duties they owe to God and their fellow-men; and enable them, under the guidance of unerring wisdom, to advance the essential interests and honour of this People: That He would take the respective states into His holy keeping, and inspire them with those sentiments of justice and mutual forbearance which shall render our political ties the bond of affection, and our union perpetual: That in tender compassion He would save our country from His desolating judgments, rescue it from war and bloodshed, preserve its inhabitants from captivity and the sword, restore the blessings of peace, and establish our tranquility upon safe and durable foundations: That He would put an end to the long course of human suffering from the unhallowed passions of men, and diffuse universally the light and influence of His Gospel—that “His way may be known upon earth, His saving health among all nations.”

All servile labour and vain recreation on said day are by law forbidden.

GIVEN under my hand in the Council chamber at New-Haven, the Twenty-fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, and of the independence of the United States of America the thirty-eighth.

JOHN COTTON SMITH.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND,

THOMAS DAY, Secretary.