

BY HIS EXCELLENCY,

ISAAC TICHENOR, ESQUIRE, ¹⁸³⁸

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

A PROCLAMATION.

THAT there is one ALMIGHTY BEING who governs the world, to whom we are responsible, and on whose providence we depend for every blessing, is a truth inculcated by reason, and enforced by the christian religion. To him are due all the gratitude and homage of his rational offspring. But more especially are we called upon, at the close of the year, to recognize his benevolence, and express in humble devotion our obligations for the peculiar displays of his abundant goodness to the people of our land.

I have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of the Council, and at the request of the General Assembly, to appoint THURSDAY THE EIGHTH DAY OF DECEMBER NEXT, to be observed as a DAY OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE throughout this State; recommending to all ministers and people of every religious denomination, to consecrate said day to the purposes of sacred devotion; to assemble at their respective places of public worship, and with humble and joyful hearts, and in fervent expressions of unfeigned gratitude, to unite, in recounting the favors of Almighty God. Particularly, let us praise him for those great political and civil privileges, which so highly distinguish the people of this and the United States; that these privileges are still continued to us, and while the nations of Europe are convulsed, we are permitted to enjoy independence, freedom and peace.

It is becoming, that we praise him, for the smiles of his providence the past year, in causing the earth to yield her increase, and afford supplies for man and beast: for the general health enjoyed by the citizens of our State, and the success which has attended the labor of their hands: for the prosperous state of our literary institutions, and for improvements in the useful arts. Above all other things, let us praise him for the gift of a Savior, the revelation of the gospel, the success which has attended its administration, the blessings thereby conferred on civil society, and the rewards promised to the humble and sincere believer, beyond the grave.

And while with thankful hearts, we unite, to praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men, let us also with deep humiliation, confess our sins before him. Let us acknowledge and lament the degeneracy of our nation, and the prevalence of vice among us: and let us fervently implore forgiveness through the blood of our divine Mediator, and supplicate for ourselves, and our nation, the continuance of those favors, which we have justly forfeited.

In particular, let us pray that the Father of mercies would continue his favor and protection to the United States: that he would inspire the President, and all the officers of the general government with wisdom, integrity and patriotism, and crown with his blessing, their exertions for the public welfare: that he would bless the government and people of this State, and impart to all orders of men that charity which seeketh not her own, and that wisdom of the prudent which is to understand his way: that success may attend every lawful and useful enterprise, both in this and the other States: and that a due respect for the laws and constituted authorities may be observed throughout our land: that our schools, academies and colleges may become more and more promotive of knowledge and piety: that he would endue the ministers of the gospel with the spirit of our Redeemer, whose doctrines and precepts they are called to inculcate, and accompany with his blessing all the means of grace: that he would restrain the ambition, and hostile contentions of the nations of Europe, and hasten on that happy period, when the establishment of rational liberty, and the invaluable blessings of the gospel of peace shall extend over the whole earth.

Given under my hand in Council, this 2d day of November, in the Year of our Lord 1808.

ISAAC TICHENOR.

By His EXCELLENCY'S command.

WILLIAM PAGE, JUN. Sec'y.