

A PROCLAMATION.

For a General *THANKSGIVING*.

SENSIBLE of the continual Agency and Superintendency of a **DIVINE PROVIDENCE**; and deeply affected with the signal Appearances of Heaven, for his distressed People in this Land; The Profusions of **DIVINE MUNIFICENCE**, notwithstanding our multiplied and aggravated Provocations; and realizing that the Duty of Praise and Thanksgiving, as it is a Debt and Law of our Nature, is also a Sacrifice with which **GOD** is well pleased; the Neglect of which, involves in it a great Degree of Guilt, and is highly provoking to our indulgent Benefactor:

The **COUNCIL** and **ASSEMBLY** of this State, have appointed **THURSDAY** the Twenty first Day of November next, to be observed and kept as a Day of Public **THANKSGIVING** thro'out the State; earnestly recommending to Ministers and People of all Denominations; That with united Hearts and Voices, they adore the Benificent Author of all our Mercies; devoutly praise him for the essential Goodness of his Nature; and with unfeigned Gratitude, speak of the numerous Expressions of his Covenant, Truth and Faithfulness to his People. That, tho' he has visited our Transgressions with the Rod, he has corrected us in Measure, and punished us less than our Iniquities have deserved; That while our Enemies have been with implacable Malice, meditating & vigorously endeavouring our Destruction, He has restrained and disappointed them; rendered their Schemes & Efforts ineffectual, and while he has improved them as the Rod of his Fatherly Displeasure for our Sins; He has made them instrumental of accomplishing his merciful Purposes concerning us: That notwithstanding all their secret Machinations, and open Assaults, We are this Day distinguished above all the Earth, as a FREE PEOPLE, in Possession of our invaluable, both Civil and Religious Priviledges. That though the Tokens of the Divine Anger are not wholly removed, and his Hand is still stretched out to chasten us, he is in the midst of Judgment remembering Mercy: Still rendering fruitless the Attempts of our Enemies to subdue us; preserving and strengthening the Union of our States; directing our Councils; inspiring our Generals with Wisdom, Prudence, and Fortitude; animating our Officers and Soldiers with Valour; mitigating the Sickness of our Camps, and giving Health in our Habitations; blessing us with a plentiful Harvest, and crowning the Year with his Goodness; and notwithstanding all the Vigilance, Activity and Strength of our Enemies, protecting us by Sea, and sending us the Produce of distant Countries, for our Defence, Support, and Convenience; **ABOVE ALL**, continuing with us the glorious Gospel of Peace in its Purity and Simplicity; pointing out before us through our **DIVINE EMMANUEL**, the Path that leads to the Inheritance and glorious LIBERTIES of the **SONS of GOD**; and giving us the joyful Prospect of having these Blessings secured and perpetuated to the latest **POSTERITY**.

All servile Labour is forbidden on said Day.

Given at **EXETER** the 19th Day of October 1776.

By Order of the **COUNCIL** and **ASSEMBLY**.

M. Weare, | **PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.**

BENEZER THOMPSON, SECRETARY.

GOD Save the UNITED STATES of AMERICA.