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By His Excellency

*Richard Earl of Bellomont, Captain General and Governour in Chief of His Majesties Province of New-York, and Territories depending thereon in America, and Vice Admiral of the same.*  
*Esq.*

## A P R O C L A M A T I O N

**W**Hereas there is nothing more evident in holy Scriptures, than when a Nation or People do with-draw their Affections from God and his holy Ordinances, and suffer themselves to be mis-guided by their wild and natural Appetites, that Religion and Government becomes Contemptible, and the People degenerate into Looseness and Prophaneness, blaspheming the holy Name of God, and speaking evil of Dignities and Powers. And whereas it is observable, that of late years the People of this Province not having a due regard to those holy Duties which are required of them by Almighty God, in the holy Scriptures, have fallen into great Divisions, Strifes, Dissentions and Uncharitableness, encouraging amongst themselves Back-biting, false Rumors, Enmity, Variance, want of Love, and all sorts of Immoralities and Prophaneness, to the great Scandal of the holy Christian Religion, and the endangering of the Peace of his Majesties Government, thereby provoking the Almighty God to Anger, & justly bringing upon this Province those Judgments of his Wrath which have lately attended us in the grievous and afflictive Changes of the Seasons, by which much of the Fruits of the Earth are blasted, and rendered unserviceable to Man. And whereas Almighty God hath at all times signified his great & unexpressible Love unto Mankind, by with-drawing the Rod of his Judgments upon a Nation & People, from them, when such People have with contrite hearts and unfeigned Repentance, humbled themselves before him, acknowledging his infinite Power and holy Name, and have also with fasting and Prayer supplicated his gracious favour for the removing of all those Judgments where-with he hath afflicted his People. To the end therefore that the Wrath of God may be appeased, and that these Judgments which are now upon this Land and Province, and daily threaten the same, may be removed, and that the People thereof may be no longer divided, separated and divided in their Affections unto God, and to his Majesty, our most gracious Sovereign, and to one another, I have therefore thought fit, by & with the advice of his Majesties Council, to publish & proclaim a solemn Day of Fast and Prayer. And by these Presents I do Publish and Declare, That a solemn Day of Fast & Prayer shall be kept and observed by all and every Person & Persons within this Province upon *Wednesday* the 25th of this Instant *October*, for the imploring of Almighty God to pardon the sins of the People, & the with-drawing of his Judgments from this Land; and that by his signal Providence he would take our most gracious Sovereign Lord King *William* into his special Protection, and preserve his Royal Person from all Perils and Dangers, & bless all the Kingdoms & Dominions under his Majesty's Government with his long & prosperous Reign, to the extirpation of *Popery*, and suppression of *Arbitrary Power*, and the preserving of his Subjects in all their just Rights & Liberties; & that the most benign God by his divine Grace & Spirit would be graciously pleased to unite the Minds of the People, that all strife, heart-burning & discord may pass away, and in lieu thereof they may be inspired with a Spirit of Love, Charity and Concord, so that with one heart and one mind God may be glorified, the King honoured, & all those in Authority under him Reverenced, to the Red-emption of a perfect Peace throughout this Province, to the general Satisfaction, & to the Tranquility of Mind of all his Majesties good Subjects within the same. And I do, by and with the advice of his Majesties Council aforesaid, Charge and Command that the said *Wednesday*, being the 26th Instant, shall be strictly kept and observed as a solemn Day of publick Fast and Prayer, and that all servile Labour shall cease upon the said Day, hereby requiring all Ministers of the Gospel within their respective Parishes and Precincts to give timely Notice thereof, that the same may be duly and religiously observed in the respective Churches & Meetings with Preaching and Prayer. And by and with the Advice of his Majesties Council aforesaid, I do strictly Charge & Command all Mayors, Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Comptrolers, and all others concerned, that they do take effectual care that the said Day of solemn Fast and Prayer be strictly observed accordingly, in their severall and respective Cities, Counties, Jurisdictions and Precincts, as they will answer the contrary at their Peril.

Given under my Hand at Fort William Henry the sixth Day of October, 1698. and in the Tenth Year of his Majesties Reign.

By his Excellency's Command,  
*B. Cotes, Cl. Councilij.*

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Bellomont.

God Save the KING.