

By his EXCELLENCY

# WILLIAM GREENE, Esq;

Governor, Captain-General, and Commander in Chief, of and over the State of  
*Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations.*

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

**W**HEREAS the Most Honorable the Congress of the United States of *America* did, on the Nineteenth Day of *March* last, pass the following Resolve, *to wit* :

“THE Goodness of the Supreme Being to all his rational Creatures demands their Acknowledgments of Gratitude and Love; his absolute Government of this World dictates, that it is the Interest of every Nation and People ardently to supplicate his Favour, and implore his Protection.

“When the Lust of Dominion, or lawless Ambition, excites arbitrary Power to invade their Rights, or endeavour to wrest from a People their sacred and invaluable Privileges, and compels them, in Defence of the same, to encounter all the Horrors and Calamities of a bloody and vindictive War; then is that People loudly called upon to fly unto that God for Protection, who hears the Cries of the Distressed, and will not turn a deaf Ear to the Supplication of the Oppressed.

“*Great-Britain*, hitherto left to infatuated Councils, and to pursue Measures repugnant to her own Interest, and distressing to this Country, still persists in the Design of subjugating these United States, which will compel us into another active and perhaps bloody Campaign.

“The United States in Congress assembled, therefore, taking into Consideration our present Situation, our multiplied Transgressions of the holy Laws of our God, and his past Acts of Kindness and Goodness towards us, which we ought to record with the liveliest Gratitude, think it their indispensable Duty to call upon the several States to set apart the last *Thursday* in *April* next, as a Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, that our joint Supplications may then ascend to the Throne of the Ruler of the Universe, beseeching him to diffuse a Spirit of universal Reformation among all Ranks and Degrees of our Citizens, and to make us an holy, that so we may be an happy People: That it would please him to impart Wisdom, Integrity and Unanimity, to our Counsellors; to bless and prosper the Reign of our illustrious Ally, and give Success to his Arms employed in the Defence of the Rights of human Nature: That he would smile upon our military Arrangements by Land and Sea; administer Comfort and Consolation to our Prisoners in a cruel Captivity; protect the Health and Life of our Commander in Chief; grant us Victory over our Enemies; establish Peace in all our Borders, and give Happiness to all our Inhabitants: That he would prosper the Labour of the Husbandman, making the Earth yield its Increase in Abundance, and give a proper Season for the Ingathering of the Fruits thereof: That he would grant Success to all engaged in lawful Trade and Commerce, and take under his Guardianship all Schools and Seminaries of Learning, and make them Nurseries of Virtue and Piety: That he would incline the Hearts of all Men to Peace, and fill them with universal Charity and Benevolence and that the Religion of our Divine Redeemer, with all its benign Influences, may cover the Earth as the Waters cover the Seas.

“Done by the United States in Congress assembled, this Nineteenth Day of March, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-two, and in the Sixth Year of our Independence.

JOHN HANSON, President.

“Attest. CHARLES THOMSON, Sec'ry.”

I HAVE therefore thought fit, by and with the Advice of such Members of the General Assembly as I have had the Opportunity of consulting, to issue this Proclamation, to make known the same; and to recommend to the Inhabitants of this State, that, abstaining from all Sports and servile Labour, they observe the said last *Thursday* in *April* as a Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, agreeable to the said Resolve.

Given under my Hand, and the Seal of the said State, this Thirteenth Day of April, A.D. 1782, and in the Sixth Year of Independence.

WILLIAM GREENE.

By his Excellency's Command,  
HENRY WARD, Sec'ry.

GOD save the United States of *America*.

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