

# STATE OF VERMONT.

BY FREDERICK HOLBROOK,  
GOVERNOR.

## A PROCLAMATION.

THE pious heart ever finds comfort and strength in the belief that an eternal Mind superintends the affairs of the universe, and with reverence and devotion adopts the sublime sentiment of the Psalmist: "Lord thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." A humble trust in God's providence, and a deep sense of His dominion, is a disposition of mind, which even in our darkest hours, lets in bright rays of comfort, and amid the changes and trials of life, fills the heart with cheerful hope and unruffled tranquility; and when extensively pervading a people, affords the surest safeguard to them and their institutions, amid the catastrophes, vicissitudes and shocks to which States and Empires are subject.

At this beneficent spring-time of the year, when the sun is rising in its strength, and loosening the rigors of winter, and the earth is preparing to unfold itself in beauty and bounteousness, the dictates alike of Christian sentiment and of hallowed custom, call for a day in which to devoutly acknowledge God's providence and our dependence on Him. In obedience thereto, I do appoint THURSDAY, THE TENTH OF APRIL, next, to be observed by the people of this State, as a day of FASTING, HUMILIATION and PRAYER; and I invite them to abstain from usual secular employments on that day, and to assemble in their accustomed places of worship, to recount their blessings, realizing that it has been "in secure habitations, and amid quiet resting-places," that Providence has given them, for a long time, their repose; to call past ways to remembrance and strict review, and to offer Prayer to Almighty God:—that troubled minds, and hearts mourning departed ones, may be comforted by heavenly influences; that a spring-time of the heart may visit us all; that the labors of the husbandman in the coming season may be crowned with success, the early and the latter rain and the genial sunshine gladdening the fields and perfecting timely and abundant harvests; that the people may be prospered in their varied industrial pursuits and enterprises; that health and domestic peace and comfort may prevail; that the educational, charitable and religious institutions of the State may be prospered, and be fruitful in benign influences on our population; that no secret nor public vices may be indulged to undermine our morals or the fabric of our prosperity; that we may rise superior to every former failure, and prove equal to our duties as citizens of the Republic in the present crisis, remembering that he has already lived too long who has survived the ruin of his country; that wisdom and virtue may be given us, and we preserve a firm, elevated and patriotic tone of mind, whatever conflicts or sorrows we may be called to encounter.

Especially in the present period of trial and calamity to our country, let us implore Almighty God to preside over our destinies, to guide our councils and bless our arms, sensible that "except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." And let it be our petition that the blessed sun of Liberty and Union may chase away the darkness covering a portion of our land, and that the prayer of Ethiopia, there stretching forth her hands for deliverance, may in God's good time find a gracious answer, His providence pointing her way out of bondage.

Let us remember particularly on that day, the brave men, who with such alacrity have gone forth from us to endure the hardships and meet the perils of war, for their country's sake; and if fall some or many of them must, in so grand a cause, whether by sickness or on the battle-field, let our tears of respect and affection ever bedew their memory, and our bereavement find solace in the reflection that they unselfishly offered themselves a sacrifice to country, and found the grave of the soldier in the performance of the highest duty of the patriot.

*Given under my hand, and the Seal of the State, in Executive Chamber, at Brattleboro', this twentieth of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-sixth.*

FREDERICK HOLBROOK.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,

SAMUEL WILLIAMS,

*Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs.*

