

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

RICHARD SKINNER,

Captain-General, Governor, and Commander in Chief, in and over the State of Vermont

A PROCLAMATION.

THE constant and irresistible evidence, exhibited to the view of every intelligent creature, of the existence of an overruling Providence, admonishes us of our duty at all times humbly to acknowledge our entire dependence upon a Supreme Being, and cheerfully to submit to all His dispensations.

A realizing sense of our habitual ingratitude, under the enjoyment of His multiplied mercies, and disregard of His chastening hand, under the sufferings of His righteous judgments, can but excite in our breasts the most pungent remorse and deep humility; and perhaps there is no set time, no season more appropriate for a people publicly to unite in observing a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer, than that in which this solemn rite has ever been celebrated by the sober and virtuous citizens of this state.

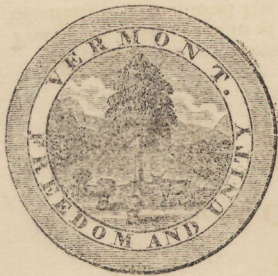
A consideration of that divine munificence which has so liberally supplied all our temporal wants, and by which our unprofitable lives have been sustained, during that period, when the inclement winter seems to have extinguished all vegetable life, and shrouded the earth with its cold and gloomy mantle; a recollection that we have been thoughtlessly feasting upon the bounties of divine beneficence, until the last harvest, with which infinite goodness hath supplied us, is almost exhausted; and a conviction that by our own exertions, our stores cannot be replenished, but that our planting and watering will be in vain, unless He who hath promised seed time and harvest, shall graciously give the increase; ought not only to fill our minds with solemn admiration and fear, but with penitent hearts bring us to the footstool of his mercy, in deep humility and self abasement; there with unfeigned lips to acknowledge our ingratitude, our abuse of His countless mercies, and our demerit of His favour; and with unwavering reliance upon the boundless love of the blessed Saviour, in whom alone rests all our hopes, fervently plead His merits, His spotless life of obedience, and unparalleled sufferings in behalf our guilty race.

That an opportunity may be afforded for the people of this state to unite in publicly celebrating a fast, I have thought proper to appoint, and with the advice of the Council do hereby appoint, WEDNESDAY the NINTH day of APRIL next, to be observed as a day of public humiliation, FASTING and prayer throughout this state; and desire that ministers and people of every denomination, will at their respective places of public religious worship, assemble, and with genuine contrition of heart unite in bewailing and confessing our multiplied and aggravated sins and transgressions, and in humble confidence upon the efficacy of the atoning sacrifice, and exhaustless grace of the blessed Redeemer, imploring forgiveness, praying for the continuance of divine favour and protection, and in praising God for his forbearance and His mercy. Let us pray for the prosperity of this state—that our rulers may be just men—that all in places of public authority may faithfully and impartially discharge their respective trusts—that the poor may be protected against the oppression of the rich—that the defenceless and unsuspecting may not be the prey of the powerful and designing—that all may participate in the enjoyment of the rights and privileges professedly secured by our constitution and government—that the blessing of Heaven may attend our agricultural, manufacturing and commercial interests—that the diligence of every citizen may receive a merited reward—that the approaching season may be tempered in mercy—that our lives and healths may be preserved—that we may withstand the alluring charms of vice—that sobriety and morality may characterize all our citizens—that the insidious attacks of infidelity may not prevail against the pure principles of religion, and that the doctrines inculcated by the Saviour may be universally recognized:

Let us pray for the prosperity of the general government—that our liberties may remain as imperishable as the fame of those by whom they were achieved—that our civil institutions may be as inviolable as the virtues of those by whom they were framed—that the councils of the nation may possess the spirit of those who first moved the wheels of government and hushed to silence the voice of discord—that the interests of all may be equally regarded, and the best good of the nation promoted, and that patriotism and virtue may not be sacrificed upon the altar of intrigue and corruption. Let us pray that civil and religious liberty may extend through the earth, although *kings may set themselves and the rulers of the earth take counsel together* against the liberties of the people—that they may be confounded and held in derision, and their hands broken asunder—that the triumphs of the Cross may be celebrated in every heathen land, and the dark corners of the earth filled with the glorious light of revealed truth.

GIVEN under my hand at Manchester, this 4th day of March, in the year of our Lord Christ, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, and the forty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States.

RICHARD SKINNER.



BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR:

ROBERT TEMPLE, Secretary.