

BY THE HONORABLE

JONATHAN TRUMBULL, ESQUIRE,

Governor, Captain-General, and Commander in Chief in and over the State of CONNECTICUT, in  
AMERICA;

# A PROCLAMATION,

For a Day of Fasting and Prayer.

*WHEN* it is considered that all Mankind, and all Communities of Men, have an absolute, entire, and necessary Dependence on GOD;—that He is the great Governor of the World, and the wise Disposer of all the Affairs and Concernments of the Children of Men;—that He hath done great and marvelous Things for his People in this Land, from their first Beginnings to this Day, which our Fathers have told us, and which we have seen with our Eyes;—that He is, in his holy and righteous Providence, come out in Judgment against us, and doth permit the King of Great-Britain, with his Parliament, to sap the Constitution to its very Foundation, and to sport with all the Privileges of the People in all Parts of the Empire; and to accomplish their Purposes, to have Recourse, in spite of the most powerful Arguments to the contrary, to every dishonorable Artifice, and unprovoked Violence; and finally to levy an unnatural War upon his British People in AMERICA, who at that Time were a dutiful and liege People; and to carry on the same with unrelenting Cruelty and Vigor, have engaged Mercenaries and Savages to join therein, using every Artifice to cause Division and Discord among the People of this Land:—When it is also considered, that humble and decent Petitions have been made and presented to obtain Relief and Redress of these Grievances, which have been rejected and spurned;—that Thirteen Governments in AMERICA being declared Rebels, and deprived of the Protection and paternal Kindness of the King, and suffering under the Malevolence of their British Brethren, have solemnly declared that they are, and of Right ought to be free and independent States;—that a solemn Act of Confederation is forming, to be entered into by all these united States, so that all Men in them may lead quiet and peaceable Lives in all Godliness and Honesty;—and that a solemn Appeal is made to GOD for his just and righteous Decision in this unhappy War:—The Scriptures, the Examples of holy Men, and of our Fathers, shew it to be our Duty frequently by Fasting and Prayer, to appear before the LORD, to humble ourselves in his Sight, to confess and lament for our evil Deeds, and for our great Trespases, and to repent of all our Iniquities, which deserve His righteous Punishment—to seek His Face, the Light of His Countenance, and Deliverance from the Hands of our Enemies, who have risen up against us, to deprive us of our Rights and Liberties—and to supplicate for His Mercy, for Wisdom and Direction, that so these free and independent States may be ratified, confirmed, established, built up, and caused to flourish, and to become a Praise in the whole Earth.

**I** HAVE therefore, by and with the Advice of the Council, thought fit to appoint, and do hereby appoint *Thursday the nineteenth Day of September* instant, to be observed as a Day of FASTING and PRAYER throughout this State; hereby exhorting both Ministers and People of all Denominations, to humble themselves before GOD, confessing their Sins, and intreating His divine Grace, Favor, and Blessing. Particularly, to confess and lament their having gone far from GOD, forgetting the Errand of their Fathers into this Land, neglecting and abusing the inestimable Privileges of the Gospel, and trifling with the Liberties wherewith CHRIST hath made us free,—to mourn for our Pride, Covetousness, Sensuality, Security, Vanity, Dissipation, and Insensibility of the Obligations we are under to the divine Author of all our Blessings;—Upon this solemn Day of Fasting and Humiliation, to set our Sins in Order before us, with all their heinous Aggravations, and in the Bitterness of our Souls to lament and bewail the general Prevalence of Impiety and Vice, which hath overspread and diffused itself through the Land:—To offer up fervent Supplications to Almighty GOD, for His gracious Presence with us,—to give us true Repentance and Reformation,—to make us fully sensible that our Dependence must be on his Power and Grace alone,—to retrieve the antient Piety and Virtue of the Land,—to prosper our Arms,—to deliver us from the Power of our Enemies,—to quicken and enlarge the Hearts of His People in the Fear and Service of GOD, in the Love of GOD, of their Country, of one another, and in Defence of their just Rights and Liberties.

AND likewise to offer up devout Prayers for the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA in General Congress assembled, that GOD would preside in the Midst of them, direct and lead them to such wise and just Articles of Confederation, and to such equitable and righteous Measures, as may preserve and secure the Rights and Liberties, the Prosperity and Tranquility of the whole United States of America—That He would shew Favor to each, and in particular to this State, carry them all safely through this unhappy War—give Wisdom and Conduct to our Generals and Officers, and inspire our Soldiers with Courage, Resolution and Fortitude—defeat the Attempts and Designs of our Enemies—turn them back from us—and make bare His Arm for our Salvation:—Bless and guide our Civil Rulers, and enable them with Wisdom and Courage to use all their Power and Influence to promote the Happiness of this People—make them Protectors and Examples of Virtue, the Terror of Vice, and happy Instruments of the public Peace and Tranquility;—That GOD would grant plentiful Effusions of His Holy Spirit upon Rulers, Ministers of the Gospel, Colleges, Schools of Learning, and on all the People—cause true and undefiled Religion to flourish in this and all these States, and through the Christian World.

Further, I do sincerely recommend to the several Churches in this State, to continue the laudible Practice of setting apart Seasons of PRAYER to GOD, our ALMIGHTY Preserver and Deliverer.

*And all servile Labour is forbidden on said Day.*

Given under my Hand in Lebanon, the sixth Day of September, in the Year of our LORD, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-Six.

JONATHAN TRUMBULL.