

B Y H I S E X C E L L E N C Y

WILLIAM LIVINGSTON, Esq.

Governor, Captain General and Commander in Chief in and over the State of New-Jersey, and Territories thereto belonging, Chancellor and Ordinary in the same.

PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the United States in Congress assembled did, on the eighteenth Day of October last past, issue a Proclamation in the Words following, to wit,

WHEREAS it hath pleased the supreme Ruler of all human Events to dispose the Hearts of the late belligerent Powers to put a Period to the Effusion of human Blood, by proclaiming a Cessation of all Hostilities by Sea and Land; and these United States are not only happily rescued from the Dangers and Calamities to which they have been so long exposed, but their Freedom, Sovereignty and Independence, ultimately acknowledged: And whereas in the Progress of a Contest on which the most essential Rights of human Nature depended, the Interposition of Divine Providence in our Favour hath been most abundantly and most graciously manifested, and the Citizens of these United States have every Reason for Praise and Gratitude to the God of their Salvation. Impressed, therefore, with an exalted Sense of the Blessings by which we are surrounded, and of our entire Dependence on that Almighty Being, from whose Goodness and Bounty they are derived, the United States in Congress assembled do recommend it to the several States to set apart the second Thursday in December next, as a Day of publick Thanksgiving, that all the People may then assemble to celebrate with grateful Hearts and united Voices, the Praises of their supreme and all bountiful Benefactor for his numberless Favours and Mercies—that he hath been pleased to conduct us in Safety through all the Perils and Vicissitudes of the War—that he hath given us Unanimity and Resolution to adhere to our just Rights—that he hath raised our powerful Ally to assist us in supporting them, and hath so far crowned our Efforts with Success, that in the Course of the present Year Hostilities have ceased, and we are left in the undisputed Possession of our Liberties and Independence, and of the Fruits of our own Lands, and in the free Participation of the Treasures of the Sea—that he hath blessed the Labour of our Husbandmen with plentiful Harvests—and above all, that he hath been pleased to continue to us the Light of the blessed Gospel, and secured to us in the fullest Extent, the Rights of Conscience in Faith and Worship: And while our Hearts overflow with Gratitude and our Lips set forth the Praises of our great Creator, that we also offer up fervent Supplications, that it may please him to pardon all our Offences, to give Wisdom and Unanimity to our publick Councils, to cement all our Citizens in the Bonds of Affection, and to inspire them with an earnest Regard for the national Honour and Interell, to enable them to improve the Days of Prosperity by every good Work, and to be Lovers of Peace and Tranquility: that he may be pleased to bless us in our Husbandry, our Commerce and Navigation, to smile upon our Seminaries and Means of Education, to cause Religion and Virtue to flourish, to give Peace to all Nations, and to fill the World with his Glory.

I have therefore thought fit by and with the Advice of the Honourable the Privy-Council (as well in Conformity to the said Proclamation as from a deep Sense of our indispensable Obligations to testify in the most publick Manner our Gratitude to Almighty God for his unspeakable Goodness towards us) to appoint the said second THURSDAY of December next, to be set apart and observed as a Day of publick Thanksgiving in this State; and I do hereby earnestly recommend it to the Ministers of the Gospel of every Denomination therein to perform Divine Service, and to the People committed to their Charge to attend on publick Worship on that Day, and to abstain from all servile Labour, and all Recreations inconsistent with the Solemnity of the Festival.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Arms at Trenton, the eleventh Day of November, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-three, and of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America the eighth.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

By His Excellency's Command,
BOWEN REED, Secretary.

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