

STATE OF VERMONT.

BY HILAND HALL,

GOVERNOR.

A PROCLAMATION.

It was the custom of our Pilgrim Fathers, at the close of the harvest season when the labors of the husbandman were over, to set apart a day on which to offer Public Prayer and Praise to the Divine Author for the blessings that had been showered upon them during the year. This sacred and revered custom has been very properly observed from the earliest history of our State, and deserves, not only in commemoration of those who instituted it, but also from its exceeding appropriateness, to be perpetuated throughout all time. If our ancestors amidst their privations and sufferings, their fears and anxieties, could find cause for thanksgiving, how much more does it become us, who are surrounded by comforts and conveniences to which they were strangers.

In imitation, therefore, of this praiseworthy example I do hereby appoint THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF NOVEMBER NEXT, to be observed by the people of this State as a Day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING and PRAISE to ALMIGHTY GOD.

Abstaining from all unnecessary labor, and with devout and prayerful hearts, let us on that day, as becomes a Christian People, assemble in our respective places of worship and offer unfeigned praise to Him who doeth all things well, for the great measure of happiness and health and prosperity that has attended us as a State and as individuals through the past year. Let us give thanks that our civil and religious institutions, which are the great bulwark of a nation's safety, remain unimpaired;—that the earth has yielded so abundantly of her fruits;—that while the Old World has been the scene of bloody and terrible conflicts which have sent thousands of human beings to that undiscovered Country, from whose bourne no traveller returns, Peace has reigned among us;—that famine and pestilence have not been permitted to invade our borders;—that the Arts and Sciences, Commerce and Manufactures have prospered in such an eminent degree. Let us invoke the Divine aid upon our Schools and Colleges, and pray that they may disseminate useful knowledge, and that those who go forth from them may ever be guided by the strictest principles of virtue and morality.

Let us in the observance of this day, while congratulating ourselves on our well filled garners, not be unmindful of those around us who have not been so kindly favored. Let the hand of charity open itself wide on this occasion, and added to our pleasures will be the sweet reflection that we have contributed to the enjoyments of the children of want and suffering. Then will the day be a Thanksgiving Day in reality,—a day acceptable in the sight of our Heavenly Father.



Given under my hand and the seal of the State, in the Executive Chamber, at Montpelier, this thirty-first Day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-fourth.

HILAND HALL.

By the Governor,

WILBUR P. DAVIS,

Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs.