

By

20 Mar. 1781.

The United States in Congress assembled

Proclamation

At all times it is our duty to acknowledge the overruling providence of the great governor of the Universe and devoutly to implore his divine favour and protection. But in the hour of calamity and impending danger when by fire and the sword, by the savages of the wilderness, and by our own domestics, a vindictive enemy pursues a war of rapine and devastation with unrelenting fury; we are peculiarly excited with true penitence of heart to prostrate ourselves before our great Creator, and fervently to supplicate his gracious interposition for our deliverance. —

The United States in Congress assembled, therefore do earnestly recommend that Thursday the third day of May next may be observed as a day of humiliation fasting and prayer, that we may with United hearts confess and bewail our manifold sins and transgressions, and by sincere repentance and amendment of life appease

appease his righteous displeasure, and through the merits of our blessed Saviour obtain pardon and forgiveness. —

That it may please him to inspire our Rulers with wisdom, and uncorruptible integrity and to direct and prosper their councils to inspire all our Citizens with a fervent and disinterested love of their Country, and to preserve and strengthen their union; to turn the hearts of the disaffected, or to frustrate their devices; to regard with divine compassion our friends in captivity affliction and distress, to comfort and relieve them under their sufferings, and to change their mourning into grateful songs of triumph; That it may please him to bless our Ally, and to render the connection formed between these United States and his Kingdom, a mutual and lasting benefit to both nations; to animate our Officers and forces by sea and land with invincible fortitude, and to guard and protect them in the day of battle; and to crown our joint endeavours for terminating the calamities of war with victory and success, that the blessings of peace and liberty may be established on an honorable and permanent basis and transmitted inviolate to the latest
(prosperity)

posterity; that it may please him to prosper our husbandry and commerce and to bless us with health and plenty, that it may please him to bless all schools and seminaries of learning and to grant that truth, justice and benevolence and pure and undefiled religion may universally prevail. —

And it is recommended to all the people of these States to assemble for public worship and abstain from labour on ^{the} said day —

Done in Congress the twentieth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty one and in the fifth of the independence of the United States of America

Attest
 Sam. Huntington President
 Geo Thomson Secy

Proclamation for a fast
20 March 1781

New Hampshire