



Containing the freshest Advices,

Foreign and Domestic.

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MONDAY, July 15, 1776.

A PROCLAMATION,

For a day of public Humiliation, Fasting & Prayer. *I being our incumbent Duty to acknowledge GOD, in all our Ways, & to commit all our Affairs both public and private, to his alwise Direction and Guidance; and especially in a Day of singular, and general Calamity, to implore his merciful Interposition; and it having been the laudable Practice of this Government, to recommend, and appoint Days of public Fasting and Prayer, upon special and solemn Occasions; and this Court apprehending the present Season to be big with the most important Events, not only to this, but to all the United American Colonies, and sensible that these Events are at the Disposal of the supreme Governour of the Universe:*

WE have thought fit, with the Advice of Council, and at the Desire of the House of Representatives, to appoint, and do hereby set apart *Thursday* the first Day of *August* next, to be observed, throughout this Colony as a Day of solemn Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer; hereby calling upon Ministers and People, publickly to humble themselves under the righteous Hand of GOD; penitently to acknowledge their many heinous, and aggravated Sins, and the Righteousness of his Dispensations toward them: With devout, and importunate Supplications to implore Almighty GOD, that the Frowns of his Providence, manifested by the severe Draught, where with some Parts of the Land have been visited, and all the humiliating Events which have lately taken Place in America, may, under the divine Influence, produce a sincere Repentance, and thorough Reformation among all Orders, and Degrees of Persons; that He would mercifully remove the present Tokens and Effects of his righteous Displeasure against us, and prevent those more severe Judgments that our Sins deserve; and which, in the present Aspects of Divine Providence, we are warned to prepare for; — That he would command his Blessing upon all our public Councils in this important Crisis of our political Affairs; protect and preserve the Life of our General, his Officers and Soldiers; succeed and prosper their Arms, wherever employed; that our cruel and unnatural Enemies may be defeated in their open Attempts, secret Plots, and diabolical Machinations to subjugate, or destroy us; and this People, placing their Hope and Confidence in that GOD, in whom their patriotic and pious Fathers trusted, and were delivered, may be disposed, with manly Cheerfulness to offer themselves for the Defence of their bleeding Country, and of those Rights, civil and religious, upon the Enjoyment of which, the Peace and Happiness of the present, and future Generations depend; that he will be pleased to hear the Cry of the Prisoner, and grant a speedy Liberation to all our captivated Brethren; that he would Water the Earth with timely refreshing Showers, and cause this Year to abound with Health, and Plenty; and prevent the spreading of any epidemical Sickness among us; that he would put a stop to the wanton Effusion of human Blood, guard and defend our Sea-Coasts from the Invasions of those Sons of War, destin'd by Britain indiscriminately to burn and destroy; — That he would protect our Frontiers from the Inroads of the Northern Savages: That he would pour out of his Spirit upon this People, and his Blessing upon their Offspring; and that he would spread the peaceful Kingdom of the Divine Redeemer over the Face of the whole habitable World.

And all servile Labour and Recreation are forbidden on the said Day.

GIVEN at the Council Chamber at Watertown, this fourth Day of July, in the Year of our LORD 1776.

Sign'd by the Major Part of the Council.

By their Honor's Command,

JOHN AVERY, Jun. Dep. Sec'y.

GOD Save AMERICA!

To the Printer of the Watertown News-Paper.

SIR,

Observing a paragraph in your paper of the 15th of April last, concerning Religion, with a question at the end of it to be discussed, The writer says, as Religion has always been a bane of contention with mankind, especially the bigotted part — But he should rather have said that true Religion has always been had in contempt, especially with the prophane and erroneous part of mankind, (he goes on and says) it is hoped that in this new constitution of an American Empire, all religious persecution will be wholly shut out of it, and Religion be left by its own force and native charms to spread and prevail: but I would ask him whether the sword drawn in defence of true Religion or against it, be the persecution he means or act, if the former it cannot be called a persecution, because it is the declared will of God in his word to extirpate all false teachers out of the land, if the latter it cannot be called a religious persecution, but a persecution against Religion, because a sword drawn against the true Religion proceedeth from the Devil and wickedness of men.

Again, I would ask him what he means by Religion being left by its own force & native charms to spread and prevail; the only native charms of true Religion is the pure preaching of the truth of the everlasting gospel accompanied by the irresistible power and efficacy of the spirit of God. This and this only can make it prevail to the convincing and converting of sinners; but how lamentable is it that it is the woful disposition of mankind to do all they can to hinder this native force of Religion. Psal 58 verse 4, 5. Their poison is like the poison of a serpent; they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear: — which will not hearken to the voice of charmers charming never so wisely — The question he puts forth, to be discussed by some able hand (as follows,) whether any religious establishment tends to the civil and religious happiness of mankind (or a community) or in other words — whether civil government has any other business to do with Religion than to protect all the professors of it? (the question we say is discussed by many able hands already: he is referred for answer to the judicious Dr. Owen's select sermons preached before the parliament in the time of the reformation, he says page 433) even judges and rulers, as such, must kiss the son and own his sceptre, and advance his ways. Some think if you, (speaking to the parliament,) were well fruled, you ought not, in any thing, as rulers of the nations, to put forth your power for the interest of Christ: the good Lord keep your hearts from that apprehension.

Again, page 444 — Magistrates are the ministers of God, for the good, universal good of them to whom they are given, Rom. 13 14, and they are to watch and apply themselves to this very thing; verse 6. and the reason the apostle gives to stir up the saints of God to pray for all sorts of men, in special for kings, and those that are in authority, to wit, that they may in general come to the knowledge of the faith, — is that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty, 1 Tim. 2 1, 2. — They are to feed the people committed to their charge — unto universal peace and welfare. — Labour to be fully persuaded in your own mind, that you be not carried up and down with every wind of doctrine, as tho' you had received no truth — know that error and falsehood have no right nor title, either from God or man, unto any privilege, protection, advantage, liberty, or any good you are entrusted withal. To dispose that unto a lie, which is the right of, and due to truth, is to deal treacherously with him by whom you are employed. [Sermon before the parliament, entitled Christ's kingdom, and the magistrates power.]

NORTH CAROLINA.

In CONGRESS, April 12, 1776.

RESOLVED, That the Delegates for this colony in the Continental Congress be empowered to concur with the Delegates of the other colonies in declaring independency, and forming foreign alliances, reserving to this colony the sole and exclusive right of forming a constitution and laws for this colony, and of appointing Delegates from time to time (under the direction of a general representation thereof) to meet the delegates of the other colonies, for such purposes as shall be hereafter pointed out.

The Congress taking the same into consideration, unanimously concurred therewith.

By order,

James Green, Jun. Sec'y.

WILLIAMSBURG, June 22.

By express from South Carolina, we learn, that on the 29th ult. two ships arrived safe at Charlestown with arms and powder, one having on board 10 000 weight; they bring advice that the French are making great preparations for war, and have taken off the prohibition on the above mentioned articles. On the 3th instant Col. Munlenburg's regiment, with a body of North Carolina forces, were within two days march of Charlestown, ten leagues distant from which place lay General Clinton with 50 sail of shipping, but had not attempted to land any men.

Extract of a letter from Wilmington, May 30.

"This day Capt. Alfred Moore came from Fort Johnston, and says all the English forces are gone on board, and upwards of thirty sail gone over the bar. They left behind them some blankets, with an intention, it is thought, of spreading some infectious disorder among us."

Last Thursday Capt. Barron took, and bro't up to Jamestown, a transport ship with 220 Highlanders on board, being part of Fraser's battalion, mostly recruits, and part of the 42d regiment, or Royal Highland Watch. They were landed yesterday morning and arrived here under a guard the same day. The transport had 16 wooden guns mounted; she was made prize of some little time before by the Congress privateer (as was also another transport that was in company with her) who took their officers from them, arms and ammunition, and put on board ten hands to carry into port; but being separated from the Congress in a gale of wind, the men overpowered those who had the charge of the vessel, and were steering in search of Lord Dunmore. Upon sight of Capt. Barron's vessel they dispatched a boat to him with a sergeant, one private, and one of the men who were put on board by the Congress, to make inquiry; the latter (having a convenient opportunity) informed Capt. Barron of their situation; upon which he boarded and took possession. They have been out seven weeks from Greenock, and sailed in company with a large fleet. The above men, it is said, are all that were contained in both transports; the officers, arms and ammunition were put on board the other.

JOHN COBURN,

HEREBY informs his Customers and others; that he has removed into Boston again, and carries on the Goldsmith's Business at his Shop in King Street, opposite to the American Coffee-House, where they may be supplied with any Articles in the Goldsmith's or Jeweller's way, upon the most reasonable terms: He likewise continues to take Gentlemen and Ladies to Board as usual.

To be SOLD at PUBLIC VENDUE, on Tuesday the 16th Day of July instant, at 4 o'Clock P. M. at the House of Capt. Lemuel Child, Innholder in Roxbury — Fifty one Acres of good P. 13 FURE Land, lying near said House. For further particulars inquire of said CHILD. Roxbury July 12 1776.