

2-20-1824

A Proclamation for a Day of Public Humiliation and Prayer

Albion K. Parris

Amos Nichols

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mainebicentennial>



Part of the [State and Local Government Law Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Parris, Albion K. and Nichols, Amos, "A Proclamation for a Day of Public Humiliation and Prayer" (1824). *Maine Bicentennial*. 111.
<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mainebicentennial/111>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Bicentennial by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

STATE OF  MAINE.

BY ALBION K. PARRIS,

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MAINE:

A PROCLAMATION,

For a Day of Public Humiliation and Prayer.

AS we are dependant upon our Creator for life and health, and every favor, it becomes us constantly to spread our wants before Him by prayer and supplication. Being offenders in His sight, our prayers should be attended with confessions of sin, and flow from contrite hearts. The command to pray without ceasing does not supersede the necessity of devoting special seasons more exclusively to that duty. If the family should offer their daily devotions; if the christian congregation should appear before the Lord in His courts, as often as the holy sabbath returns; it is no less becoming for the people of a whole State whom God regards in many respects as one collective body, to seek His favor at the opening of each returning season, and celebrate His praise with thanksgiving when He has crowned the year with His goodness.

From the first settlement of our country it has been deemed proper and convenient that the Chief Magistrate should designate and recommend a day for each of these purposes by public proclamation. In conformity with this usage I have thought fit, at the return of the usual period, to appoint, and with the advice of the Council do hereby appoint **THURSDAY THE FIRST DAY OF APRIL NEXT**, as a day of **Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer** throughout this State; requesting that all denominations of christians, and all ranks and orders of men would assemble in their respective places of public worship, that we may unitedly implore the favor of God for ourselves and each other, for our State, our Country and the whole family of man.

While approaching the Father of Mercies in supplication, may we not be unmindful of our debt of gratitude. Let us thank Him for the civil and religious blessings with which our country abounds; for the multitude of His mercies pertaining to this and the future world with which our years and days are filled. Let us bless Him for His kindness to our fathers and to ourselves;—For the goodly heritage He has given us;—For the mild and equal government He has placed over us;—For long seasons of tranquility and peace;—For the light of literature and science; and for the everlasting gospel of His beloved Son.

Remembering that we have slighted all His goodness, and that our individual and collective transgressions are multiplied

before the Holy One of Israel, let us with one consent rend our hearts and not our garments; and looking to the Lamb of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us unto death, let us beseech Him to remove our transgressions from us and receive us into that favor which is life eternal. Let us entreat Him to think upon us for good and to grant us this year a favorable seed time and an abundant harvest; to bless the citizens of this State in their Fisheries, Manufactures and Commerce, and all their lawful enterprizes, possessions, enjoyments and labors;—To save us from famine and pestilence, and conflagration and war;—To smile upon our Colleges, Academies, Schools and Seminaries of every grade;—To incline the hearts of the rising generation to the observance of His law;—To bless the ministrations of the Gospel, and vouchsafe the means of knowledge and salvation to every family and every soul; and to guide and prosper all those who seek the peace and enlargement of Zion and the best interest of their fellow men. And on this occasion may our hearts be lifted up to the Fountain of wisdom and grace for all in authority, whether they frame or execute the laws, or judge between man and man; that He would guide their counsels, sustain their burdens, and make them blessings to the people.

Let us implore the same mercies for every sister State, and for the whole confederated Republic; that He would enable the President of the United States and the general Legislature to avoid collision with other Nations, and direct the affairs of this great people for the general welfare;—that He would prolong our peace and prosperity, and dwell with us and our children to the latest period of time. And remembering the whole family of man, let us fervently pray that the rod of the oppressor may be broken;—that war and violence and every evil work may cease unto the ends of the earth;—that the darkness may flee away, and the true light arise upon all nations, and that the kingdoms of this world may soon become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

And I do earnestly request that labor and recreation may be suspended, and that the said day may be entirely devoted to religious solemnities.

GIVEN at the Council Chamber in Portland, the twentieth day of February, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, and in the forty-eighth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

Albion K. Parris.

By the Governor.

AMOS NICHOLS, *Secretary of State.*