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William King

Ashur Ware

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WHEREAS it is the duty of rational beings to acknowledge the wisdom of the Creator, and the
beneficence of his providence; it is therefore not less the dictate of reason than piety to worship that Supreme
Power and perfect goodness, which ordains in wisdom the diversified conditions of men. Yet more emphatically
is it the duty of a people, in whose condition, like that of the citizens of this State, a benevolent Providence
has been pleased to grant so many favors, with so few of the evils, which usually fall to the lot of men, publicly
and unitedly to acknowledge, by every expression of grateful veneration, the mercies of that Being, who has
distinguished them by such peculiar and signal favors.

I THEREFORE, WILLIAM KING, by the advice of the Council, and in
conformity with the usage of our ancestors, who have left us so many examples of moral wisdom and rational
piety, do appoint THURSDAY, the thirtieth day of November next, to be observed by the good citizens of this
State, as a day of THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE; and I do exhort them to assemble in their respective
places of public worship, and to unite in devout ascriptions of praise to that Providence, which has signalised
them by so many favors:—That we are blessed with a system of government, founded on the natural rights of
men, and wisely adapted to maintain the peace and order of society, to preserve our liberties, to promote the
general happiness, and to diffuse the advantages of education and useful knowledge among all ranks of people:
That with the inestimable blessings of a pure and holy faith, we enjoy the advantages of religious freedom
and universal toleration; and while the various religious sects divide from each other in their speculations on
abstruse points of theology, uncontrolled by any power but that to which they all owe obedience, all may unite
under the great moral precepts of religion, in the harmony of Christian love:

That while we see other nations involved in alarming confusions, and divided into acrimonious factions by
the domestic dissensions of their rulers, or struggling with generous devotion to repair the mischiefs of a long
period of hereditary misrule, or reclaiming with violence the rights, which had been by violence usurped, and
laying the foundation of civil liberty and national prosperity in the tears and blood of the brave and good,
we behold in this country a people prosperous in their industry and happy under rulers of their own choice,
and laws of their own making, and in the midst of present tranquillity gladdened with the prospect of a
lengthened period of happiness and repose:

That while other nations, and some of our sister states, have been during the present year visited with
distressing and desolating sickness, to the people of this State, it has been a season of general health:

That the treasures of the great deep have rewarded the diligence of our fishermen; That commerce, left
free to the enterprise of our merchants, and wisely regulated as it relates to foreign nations, has been prosecuted
with increasing success; and that the labors of the husbandman have, by a fruitful and salubrious season, been
wondered with plenty.

And while our grateful recollections dwell on the undeserved mercies which we have received, may we
not forget that all human virtue, like all human happiness, is imperfect; may we humble ourselves before the
perfections of that Being, whom we have so often offended, and with praises for his manifold kindness, join
our fervent supplications that we may in future so live, as to be more worthy of his favor; and that by uniting
to the virtues of good citizens, the Christian graces of meekness, faith and charity, the people of this State
may continue to bring down on themselves the blessings of that Providence, which has hitherto distinguished
them among the nations of the world by such peculiar mercies.

Given at the Council Chamber, at Portland, this second day of September, in the
year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty, and in the forty
fifth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

WILLIAM KING.

BY THE GOVERNOR.
ASHUR WARE,
Secretary of State.