

may be turned away from us. On these days of fasting and prayer *they* will publicly honor God and religion, ascribe righteousness to their Maker in bringing calamities upon us, confess before him all their sins, and renouncing dependence on an arm of flesh, ask help from heaven. When a nation under any heavy judgment persists in its wickedness, its doom approaches. But when a guilty people condemn themselves, justify the Lord, and look up to heaven for help, their measure of iniquity is not full, mercy is in store for them. Did not God prolong his patience towards Ahab, merely because of his external humiliation? In the reformation which took place in the time of Josiah, multitudes turned to the Lord only in appearance, yet his anger was turned away from them for a season. Had Sodom contained but ten righteous persons, that corrupt city had been spared. And will not God spare this great nation? will he not hear the prayers that are offered, and save his heritage from reproach? O let us search ourselves, and try our ways, and turn unto the Lord. Sin is a reproach to any people; righteousness exalteth a nation. Let us call to mind our own sins, and the sins of this land, and humble ourselves for them before God. Let us unite with our repentance and fasting, earnest prayer to God for our country. Let us pray that the calamity that has come upon us may humble the people, and be overruled for their good. *Now therefore, saith the Lord, Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning, and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.*

AMEN.