

If we be suitably affected with our own sins, and the sins of this land, we shall turn to the Lord with that sorrow, which worketh repentance unto salvation, not to be repented of. Outward expressions of sorrow will not suffice; we must rend our hearts in deep contrition and self abasement, firmly believing there is no hope or help for us but in the unmerited mercy of God. In this duty all the people in this land, *both in private and public life*, ought to engage. We are required to return to God with fasting, and weeping, and mourning. What expressions of sorrow and contrition! And will not Judah and Nineveh rise up in the Judgment day and condemn us, if we refuse to repent and return to God? They repented, when they were seriously threatened with the anger of Heaven, and made supplication for mercy. Their example encourages us, and nothing but obstinate impenitence will hinder any from returning to God. O! my brethren, *be afflicted, and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy into heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will raise you up.* Join earnest prayer with your repentance and fasting, and cry to God for your country, that peace and prosperity may be restored to these United States.

To encourage you in this duty, I would observe, that we have some reason to think Heaven will regard our supplications, and shorten the period of our troubles. Three States unite in fasting and prayer this day. The thirtieth of the present month is set apart for this important purpose in the States of New-York and Pennsylvania, and a day is appointed for the whole Union to engage in supplicating Heaven in behalf of our common country. Multitudes undoubtedly will wholly neglect, and even despise, these religious exercises, and others only prevaricate with God; yet may we not hope that a large number will fast and pray, and afflict their souls? Our country contains many thousands of real christians, who will humble themselves and intercede with God that his anger