

those who are destitute of all moral principle, and all regard for the best good of their country, will ever discover tokens of joy at such an event. It is a frown from heaven on any nation, and should be regarded as a loud and solemn call to weeping and mourning. This is the most distressing of all temporal calamities. But the war in which we are engaged is attended with circumstances peculiarly painful. It was unexpected. A great part of the people in these Northern States could not believe the government would appeal to arms, until the melancholy tidings were officially announced. This war has been declared, against the general voice of that portion of the people, who have suffered most from foreign aggression. It has taken place at a time when an unusual number of our citizens, and a large amount of property, are abroad, and are thrown by this event into circumstances of great hazard. Our country too is destitute of that preparation to maintain the war, which is the best evidence to ensure a speedy return of peace. Division and contention pervade our councils, and our country. We are engaged in hostilities with the nation from which we descended, which has for many ages ably maintained and supported the religion we profess, against the corruptions of popery on the one hand, and the assaults of infidelity on the other, and whose example, in spreading the gospel, and evangelizing the world, it has been the glory of our country to imitate. We have some reason also to apprehend an alliance with that nation, which has shown herself the enemy of Liberty, of Justice, and true Religion; whose influence is *poison*, whose friendship would be *death*.

Impressed with these considerations, what reason have we for fasting and prayer! After a declaration of war against Great-Britain was announced, the public mind was much agitated, and no intimation having been given of a National Fast, our excellent Governor, at the request of the House of Representatives, and by advice of his Council, appointed this