In Congress Nov.r 1. 1777.

Forasmuch as it is the indispensible duty of all men to adore the superintending providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with gratitude their obligations to him for benefits received, and to implore such further blessings as they stand in need of: and it having pleased him in his abundant mercy not only to continue to us the innumerable bounties of his common providence; but also to smile upon us, in the prosecution of a just and necessary war for the defence and establishment of our unalienable rights and liberties; particularly in that he hath been pleased, in so great a measure to prosper the means used for the support of our troops and to crown our arms with most signal success

ARCHIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive powers of these united States to set apart thursday the 18 day of December next for solemn thanksgiving and praise; that at one time and with one voice, the good people may express the grateful feelings of their heart and consecrate themselves to the service of their divine benefactor; and that together with their sincere acknowledgments & offerings they may join the penitent confession of their manifold sins, whereby they had forfeited every favour and their humble & earnest supplication, that it may please God, through the merits of Jesus Christ, mercifully to forgive and blot them out of remembrance; that it may please him graciously to afford his blessings on the governments of these States respectively & prosper the public counsil of the whole; to inspire our commanders both by land and sea and all under them with that wisdom and fortitude, which may render them fit instruments, under the providence of Almighty God, to secure for these united States, the greatest of all human blessings, independence and peace; that it may please him to prosper the trade & manufactures of the people, and the labor of the husbandman, that our land may yet yield its increase; to take schools & seminaries of education, so necessary for cultivating the principles of true