

Lawes of a Fast &c.

By the Right Rev^d Bishop being met at York
the 23^d day of Oct^r. 1805 - did then appoint

The 3^d Thursday of January 1806 to be
kept as a day of Fasting by themselves

and People under their pastoral Inspection

They hereby declare that in their opinion the
present is a time when the Lord is calling

upon us to humble ourselves in his Sight
and feelingly to consider and Ingenuously

Confess our Sins. - Earnestly to deprecate
his wrath and with humble urgency to

implore his Blessing - To assist the
Council in this solemn work and evince

the propriety of the injunction they exhibit
the following Summary of Causes -

When we consider the nature of man, his
circumstances and the prospects that lie

before him; we would be ready to conclude that
a rational short lived creature, destined

to be the victim of innumerable torments

The Subject of joys unspeakable
an Endless futurity, would have his mind
Immovably fixed upon his great concern
and anxiously prosecute whatever might
tend to bring it to a comfortable Issue.
But the fact is exactly the reverse. Man
his whole mind averts his Eye from such
Prospects or Views them with cold indifference
Immersed in matter and Chained to Sense
he looks for no higher Enjoyments than what
is suited to give temporal delight to his
animal part while Enjoyments and Pros-
pects of the Soul are forgotten; he perceives
not the divine Glory, is void on Creation
nor the Supreme Claim of Propriety that
God has on all his possessions; he glutts
his appetites, revels in Intemperance, and
reclines in it for repose, as though he
were going to his pasture, or lying down
in his fold: he is not moved with the
voice of the Cherubim; nor aroused with the
thunder of omnipotence; unapprised

in a few time. In pouring his clay
down upon him, and undermining his constitution
death sweeping away thousands of fellow
men from the Stage of time; God suddenly
approaching to decide his awful fate.
How can we account for such a preposterous
conduct, such brutal Insensibility,
but by admitting man has received some
awful Shock in his Mental part, that has
deranged his views and fatally injured his
moral Char^{ter}? that has caused him to be
born like a wild ass colt — what is more
lamentable what is more Calculated to
cause the tear of Sorrows; than an Incomplete
prospect of the misfortune of fallen human
nature — that has not only caused him
to be ignorant but unwilling to be taught;
that has not only robbed him of a little
divine favour, but rendered him a despiser
of divine mercy — a fighter of the realities
of the Gospel and a Contemner of the Glory of
God as revealed in Christ & how Separated out

One blow man from God - from
delightful dependence in life and from sal-
utary hope in death. The crown is taken
from our head, we are unto us for we have
sinned

To the same corrupt source we may
trace the corrupted state of public opinions
respecting things sacred - False principles
are the pernicious origin of improper
conduct - yet this is denied at present
as if good conduct could proceed from
depraved principles; we thereby evidence
that our cleaves are evil when we are such
lovers of darkness; that we will not bring
our conduct to the light - By the means
we make short work of it with respect to
the impurity of the heart - and while
that fountain of unhallowed desires and
disordered passions is concealed; it vents
its impurity without restraint; without
being horror or disgust -

and thereby a flood of erroneous
opinions have inundated the world.
Thus the mind freed from restraints of
principles, pursues diverse ways; and
follows its own Inclinations and discovers
its own Vanity more by attempting to ex-
change all that appears to him rational from
his creed of politic Obscurity, has wholly
defaced the beauty of truth - Impaired
the Christian System, and robbed the
Gospel of that divine simplicity that
captivate the heart of every lover of truth.
Ally which elevated the Christian System
above human Schemes; such as the Divinity
of the divine Councils; the Sovereignty of
divine love; the divinity of Christ; the
vicariousness of his sufferings; the efficacy
of his grace; the Indivisible, and constant
residence of the Spirit in the hearts of believers
The new birth; and the gracious

feelings of the renewed soul — doctrines
once the glory of Christianity are now
become unfashionable; thought unworthy
the entertainment of a rational mind; and
fit only to impose on Fanatics; whose
judgements are as weak as their passions
are violent — Instead of these doctrines
others more flattering to the mind of man
are invented; and the Teachers of Christ-
ianity, who should be foremost in defence
of truth are first in propagating their
destructive innovations — The cause they
preach to err and they that are led off them
are destroyed — Though the movements
of error are almost imperceptible; yet its
progress is amazingly rapid — and its
ultimate tendency subversion of truth:
men begin to grow weary of the yoke of
Christ — doubt for a time some of those
doctrines if do most appear the greatest
restraint — But afterwards become

In boldness to cast off the whole system
hence the spread of cleaver on the world
the prevalence of a system leading to the
neglect and contempt of Christ himself to
spurn with every moral tie - to treat with
contempt the most sacred doctrines of religion
and to expose to ridicule the great repository of
truth the holy scriptures themselves -

The Character of the present age is marked
by apostasy as well as error - Religion
once appeared beautiful and was honored
in these lands; the Standard of truth was
erected and nations flocked around it
to support its glory - But alas! The
glory is defaced and truth is fallen; one
Equity cannot enter; Religion is wounded
on the House of its friends; he prowl
born from him - his precepts trampled
upon - The Blood of his martyrs shed
like water, his pure and ecclesiastic
announcements buried; and the Resurrection

prevented by acts of highest human
authority; Should not every town of
Zion bewail her disasters? Should
they not prefer on a humiliation day
an ardent prayer for her restoration; and
that the beauty of the Lord may be seen
upon her — This is still the more
lamentable whenever reflect that time
and cool deliberation have produced
no National confession of guilt; no
endeavours to repair the ruines, no
attempts to prevent the increase of vices.
— But a pestilence like a mighty torrent is
carrying before it that regard to worship
Discipline doctrine and government which
was the boast of primitive reformers
and equally to leave us the Name with
out the reality of Christianity; the lifeless
body; the skeleton like appearance
without that heavenly animation; or

celestial fire that once brightned the
sects, confessions; and the rarest
friendships of our memorable ancestors.
alas! how is the gold become dross, the
most fine gold changed

3. It is to be feared that as a distressed body
we have been overtaken with the contagion
of the times and been swimming clear the
side in many instances as well as others
that pure and pious zeal that once distin-
guished the members of the Refor. Church
is much diminished; and in many de-
partments formally has occupied its
place; that pursuit of the knowledge of
the truth; accompanied with the love of it
is greatly relaxed - Serious Religion is
much neglected, Brotherly affection is
very rare - That apostolic injunction
respecting preferring one another in love
is almost forgotten - many do

discover a disposition to wrangle
about the most trivial matters and
overlook those of greater importance
Some are warring for the halting of
their brethren that they may triumph
on their fall - while several elections
it is to be feared is little attended to.

Religious Instruction in Families much
overlooked - Youth are unwilling to bend
their necks to the yoke of Religion, and
are not solicitous to obtain the privileges
of the Church! Immediate conformity
to the world and a tendency to run into
the same lapses of riot are too visible
amongst us - In some the form of relig-
ion appears to have left us exposed
to the mocking of a vain world, who
are ready to say what do ye more than
others - O that our head were as silver
and Eyes fountains of living water
Isaiah Jer 9. 1.

4th Profane and Irregularity form
another Class of Inordinacies for which we
should mourn is too evident in that
thoughtful neglect or irreverent Contempt
of the House of God, and the ordinariness
of Trust which is certainly the disgrace
of people called by his Name, and
while under the delusive prevalence of
Imaginary freedom from religious ties;
Infer to many profanes of the Gospel
in that impious profanation of the Name
of God, and their horrid imprecations that
so frequently insult our laws in almost
every Company - In that thoughtless
wasting of time particularly the Sacred
times appropriated by God to himself - In
Idleness or Impious profanity - In place of
serving the sincere God it flies from
him and seeks a substitute for him

Oh unprofitable and loaded profusion
It is the main and great present
of pleasures that consumes the Constitution
wastes the profits of Industry, and in
vain employs and swarms on Domestic
The tendency of it is to destroy the ties of
relationship Natural civil or Religious
and to destroy the life Comfort or Repu-
tation of our Neighbour - That leads to that
gratification or its Neighbouring views
of Gluttony or Intoxications that leads to
Growth at the things of this life at the
Expense of depriving others of their rights
Men have framed frauds into a system
and are become guilty in Commercial conduct
whereby the prevalence of this Commercial
intention has corrupted the Channels of public
Commerce - Vice obtrudes are multiplied
so as to have lost much of their solemnity
begging alms, False witness bearing is

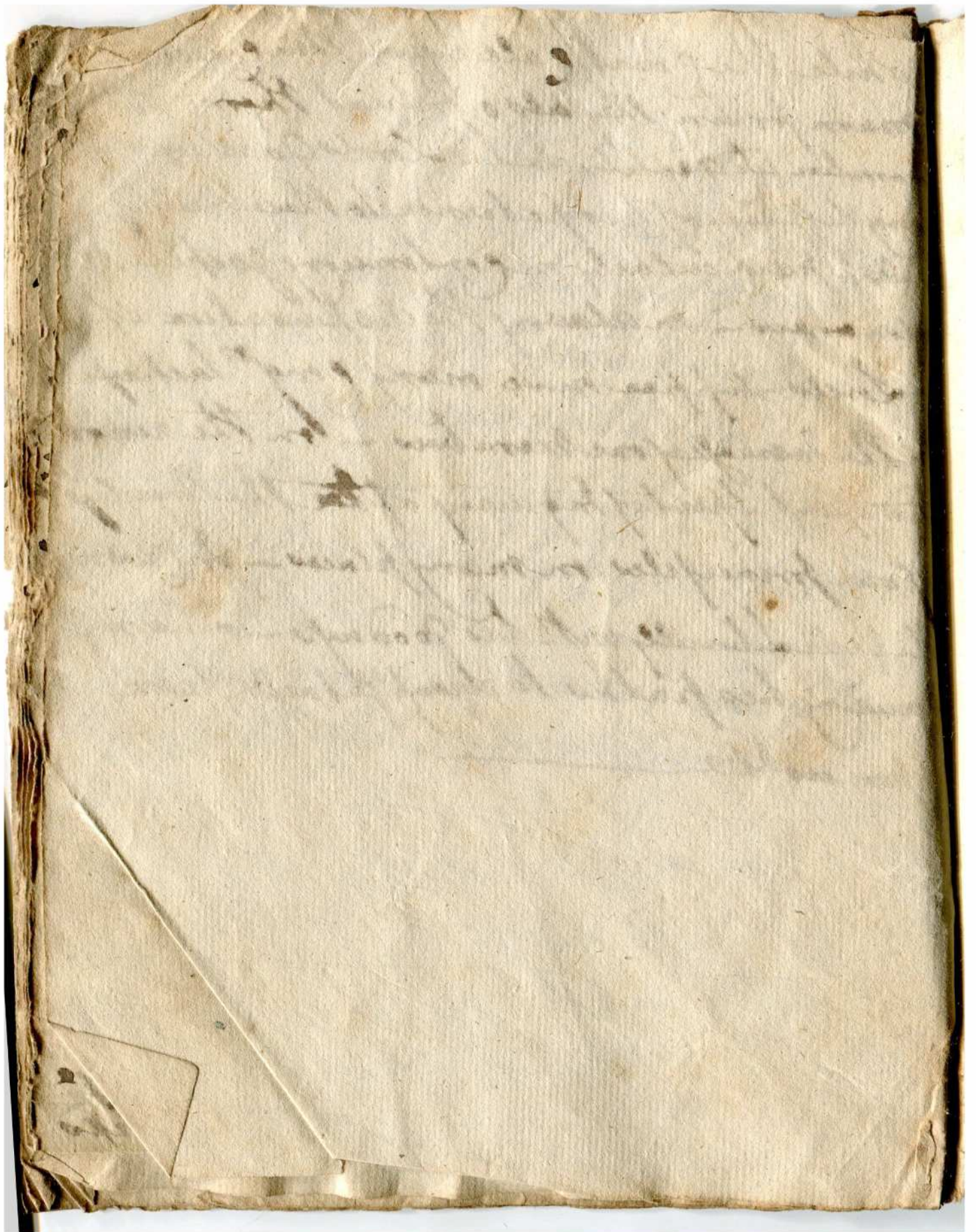
It were we not reason to fear frequent visitations
of Gods Law he has a good reason
with the Land — are we not among them
but to allow up the needy to make the
poor of the Land to complain that we may
say the poor for silver and the needy for
a pair of shoes — to whom the Lord has
sworn by the excellency of Jacob — surely
we will never forget any of their works...
The Judgements of God ^{call} upon us
to humble our selves — we are involved
in the calamities of a tedious and expensive
war w. has hurt our Commerce; shed
Blood of 1000 of our Citizens; prevented
the Industry of multitudes — drained our
offices — sunk the Nation on debt
loaded it with an insupportable burden of
pecuniary distresses which the Nation has
of of reason to draw from the

The hand of Industry - the scanty subsistence that was ~~expected~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~state~~ necessary for subsistence - and what is still more our National calamities the gradually accumulated seem still to admit of more augmentations every year almost Every part brings the mournful news of the Lepis we have sustained, or of the attempts made to repair them by means the most oppressive, but still inadequate to remedy the evils they should have redressed. The present state of affairs, exhibits a melancholy view, and the prospect is still the more dark and perplexing the enormous burdens which we have are not applied to diminish nor able to prevent the increase of National debt, - a powerful and inveterate foe threatening to invade our Country and cutting us off from being a nation.

seems to be raised up as our Instrument
of divine vengeance against a Hypo-
crite Nation — Besides the wealth
and Industry of the lower Class of Society
are collected and acquired from a 1000
channels — to satisfy to satisfy the avarice
and gratify the pride of those who
look over them — and that some spirit
of oppression has invaded the low world
of Society — whereby we injure one another
and in place of furnaces and sulphur
truth are become divided from one another
— our situations the more alarming
that there are few attending to the displeas-
ures of Gods displeasure — and few to
lament the sins that have procured these
evils, or to supplicate God to avert the judge-
ments — and yet void with tokens of His
Love.

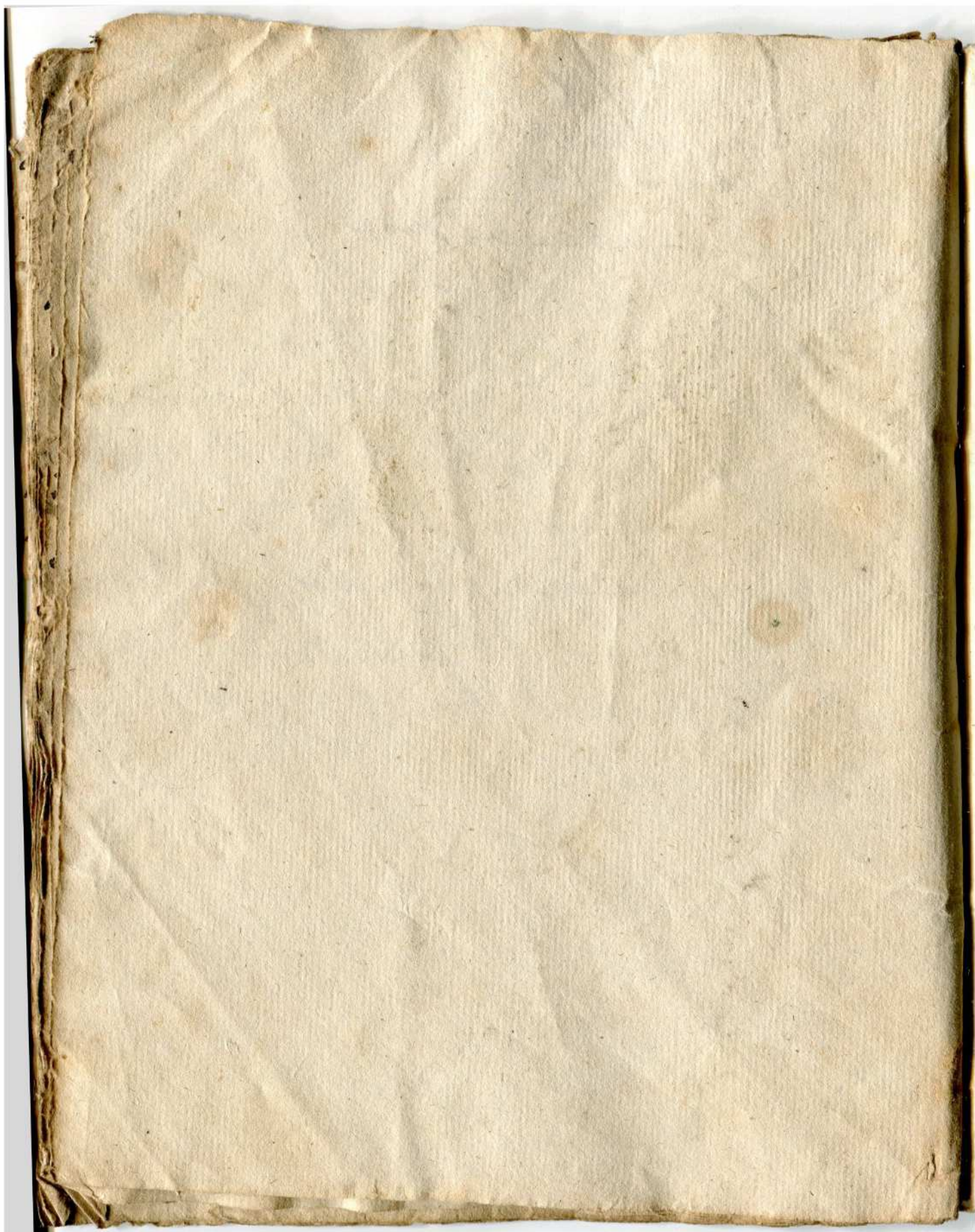
For these with singular Causes
The Preby not only appoint the day
above mentioned for fasting & prayer
But beseech their religious connections
to carry these causes with them to
the Throne of Grace feelingly to confess
their sin and cry mightily to God that
he may turn his hand in mercy
on these sinning Lands, and bless
them with special favour from on
high

while the Court call upon their Conscience
to mourn for Sin they also Intreat them to
remember wth Gratitude the Lords Goodness in
long Suffering of his patience to these guilty
lands - particularly in contumacious Gospel
condemners - in allowing the dispensation of
the Lords - suffer into many Cong^s last year
In the increase of our members - in the reno-
vated Spirit of Inquiry & the Knowledge
of our principles in many places - In causing
the Year Librally with his Goodness - and in
causing his wrath to creep fatness down
upon us &c



72 10 w 80
10 w 92
10 w 10

36. ag June



Jan 15 1806.

Dear Sir

I am not fortunate to come to you, to be in
this rough and boisterous season of official duty
you will be conversant I hope I must be
less among them so will oblige myself
to gratify you by your friends.
I am Sir your Obedt
servant

To Messrs Paul
Johnstones

Wm
Johnston