

Commonwealth



of *Massachusetts.*

By the GOVERNOR:
A Proclamation

*For a Day of SOLEMN FASTING AND
PRAYER.*

IT being our indispensable duty by Prayer and Supplication to acknowledge our dependence on Almighty God, and in a Public and Solemn manner, to implore the Divine Blessing upon all the concerns and interests of our Nation and Land: And the Season of the Year now approaching, wherein from the Days of our pious Forefathers, it has been the Practice to make United Supplications to Heaven for Direction and Success:

I HAVE therefore thought fit, to appoint: And do by and with the Advice of the COUNCIL, appoint THURSDAY, the *thirty-first* Day of MARCH next, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth, as a DAY of PUBLIC FASTING and PRAYER.—And I do exhort the People of all Religious Denominations, to assemble in their respective Congregations on that Day, and with true contrition of Heart, to confess their Sins to God, and implore forgiveness through the Merits and Mediation of JESUS CHRIST our SAVIOUR; and to seek to HIM, by fervent and humble Prayer—That it would please HIM to guide and prosper the Administration of the Government of this Commonwealth.—That HE would bless the Public Councils and Determinations of the Federal Government of these States, giving them Wisdom, Firmness and Unanimity, and directing them to the best measures for the Public Good —That HE would be pleased to preserve and strengthen the Union of these States, and that no designs against them may prosper.—To bless our Allies and render the Connection formed with them mutually beneficial.—That HE would give a Public Spirit to all Persons whatsoever, especially to such as are in Civil Authority, and endue the People with the Spirit of Piety, Truth, Harmony and Concord, and with a just sense of the value of the Liberties and Privileges they enjoy under Constitutions founded on the legitimate Principle of the Rights of Man.—That HE would be pleased to bless our Husbandry, and so order the Seasons, as that this Year may be crowned with a plentiful Harvest.—That HE would prosper our Trade, Navigation and Fishery, and give success to all our lawful undertakings both Public and Private.—That HE would continue Health to us, and prevent the spreading of any mortal or contagious Sickness.—That HE would put a stop to the progress of a Spirit of Profaneness and Impiety, and that great dissoluteness of Manners which threaten us with heavy Judgments, unless we speedily Repent and Reform.—That the rod of Tyrants may be broken in pieces and all oppression cease.—And that the glorious reign of the PRINCE of PEACE, may be established through the Earth; so that Man may no longer be the Enemy of Man.

AND it is earnestly recommended to all Citizens throughout this Commonwealth to observe the said Day, as set a part for Religious Worship, and to abstain from all servile Labour and Recreation thereon.

GIVEN at the Council-Chamber, in *Boston*, the twenty-ninth Day of *February*, in the Year of our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-six, and in the Twentieth Year of the Independence of the United States of *America*.

SAMUEL ADAMS.

ATTEST,—JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

GOD save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!