



By His EXCELLENCY

**JONATHAN BELCHER, Esq;**

Captain General and GOVERNOUR in Chief in and over His Majesty's Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay* in *New-England*.

# A Proclamation for a general F A S T.



W H E R E A S, in due Consideration of the Universal Providence of Almighty G O D, and our absolute Dependence thereon for Prosperity and Success in all our Interests and Concerns, and also of our indispensable Duty, devoutly to acknowledge the same, by humble and earnest Supplications, and in particular by Imploring the Divine Blessing on the Affairs and Occasions of the Year ensuing;

I have thought fit, with the Advice of His Majesty's Council, to Order and Appoint Thursday the Sixth Day of April next, to be observed throughout this Province as a Day of F A S T I N G and P R A Y E R, Exhorting both Ministers and People, in their publick Assemblies and private Devotions, Religiously to solemnize the same by a sincere & penitent Confession of our manifold and aggravated Sins, whereby G O D has been provoked to manifest his holy Anger against Us in various Manner; And by supplicating for Divine Favour; for averting the Tokens of His just Displeasure, and for bestowing on Us all needful Blessings; More especially, That it would please G O D to preserve and bless Our Sovereign Lord the KING, Our most gracious QUEEN CAROLINE, His Royal Highness the Prince of WALES, the DUKE, and the Rest of the Royal ISSUE, and the other Protestant Branches of the Royal Family; and that He would bless and prosper the Kingdoms and Dominions under His Majesty's gracious and wise Government, and succeed His Majesty's Councils for the Preservation of the Peace of Europe, and the general Prosperity of His People; That He would graciously please to give Direction and Success in the Administrations of the Government of this Province; That He would grant us a convenient Seed-Time and a plentiful Harvest; That He would smile upon our Merchandize, Navigation and Fishery, and defend the same from the Depredation of Pirates; That He would establish our PEACE and continue our HEALTH, and keep off Mortal Distempers from us; That He would please to grant us Favour in the Eyes of our KING, and prolong our invaluable Privileges, Religious & Civil; And, above all, That He would pour out His S P I R I T upon all Orders and Degrees of Persons in this Land, and excite them to a general Repentance and Reformation; And that the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST may come in its great Power and Glory: And all Perbille Labour and Recreations are prohibited on the said Day.

Given at the Council Chamber in *Boston* the Third Day of *March* 1731. In the Fifth Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord G E O R G E the Second, by the Grace of G O D of *Great Britain, France & Ireland*, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c.

By His Excellency's Command, with the Advice of the Council,

Josiah Willard, Secr.

J. BELCHER.

G O D save the King.