



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 *FAST.*



UPON Consideration of the just and necessary War His Majesty is engaged in against the King of *Spain*, for vindicating the Honour of his Crown, and the Rights and Interests of His good Subjects, which have been invaded by that Prince and his Vassals and Subjects; and the Preparations his Majesty has made and is making for carrying on this War in the most vigorous Manner; and more especially, in the extraordinary Armament made for an Expedition against his Catholick Majesty's Territories in the *West-Indies*, and that his Majesty's Forces in those Parts, and among them the Troops raised in this Province, in all Probability may be soon in Action, the Success of which, as well as of all other Enterprizes in War, depends entirely upon the Blessing of Almighty GOD; and upon considering also the present unsettled State of Affairs, and the Commotions among many of the Powers of *Europe*, which seem to threaten a general War, which will still more deeply affect the Interests of this Province; and considering also the many other grievous Judgments this Province is now languishing under, and the many greater, which according to the present Aspects of Providence, seem to be impending, as also the many great and heinous Sins of this People, which ought to make us tremble for fear of GOD, and to be afraid of his Judgments.

For these Considerations,

I have thought proper to order and appoint Thursday the twenty-sixth Day of February next as a Day of solemn FASTING and PRAYER throughout this Province, hereby exhorting both Ministers and People in their respective Assemblies religiously to observe the same in humble and sincere Confession of Sin and deep Repentance thereof, by offering the Sacrifice of a broken and contrite Spirit, with a steady Affiance and Dependence on the divine Mercy through the Merits and Intercession of CHRIST, together with their fervent Addresses at the Throne of Grace for obtaining these desirable Blessings, *namely*, That our rightful and sovereign Lord King GEORGE, with the Kingdoms and Territories under his happy Government may always be surrounded with the divine Protection; that his sacred Person may be saved from all secret Attempts and open Violence, that his Reign may be long and prosperous; that he may be under the gracious Conduct of Heaven, as to the great and weighty Affairs that in this critical Conjunction may be under his Consideration; and that the high Court of Parliament may be directed by the Spirit of Wisdom and Prudence in all their Consultations and Resolves; that it would please GOD to prosper his Majesty's Arms for reducing his Enemies to Reason, and for obtaining a safe and honourable Peace, and more especially, that he would give Success to the important Expedition against the Territories of the King of Spain in the *West-Indies*; giving Conduct and Courage to his Majesty's Officers and Forces by Sea and Land, and governing all Incidents with relation to this Expedition, so as to render it successful; that it would please GOD to bless their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Offspring, together with the other Branches of the Royal Family; that GOD would look in Compassion upon this Province under all our Difficulties & the great perplexities in which the Affairs thereof are involved; that he would be a Wall of Fire round about us, to defend us against all the Designs and Attempts of our Enemies; and that he would give Direction to the Government in all Emergencies; that he would pour out his Spirit upon the Magistrates, Ministers and People of this Province, that they may join in a general REFORMATION; that so GOD may deliver us from all the Evils and Calamities inflicted or threatened; and take Delight to dwell among us, and grant us Prosperity; And, above all, that GOD would hasten the Coming and Kingdom of our blessed SAVIOUR; and that the whole Earth may be filled with His Glory.

Given at the Council Chamber in *Boston*, the Thirty-fifth Day of January 1740. In the Fourteenth Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Second, by the Grace of GOD, of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c.

By Order of His Excellency the Governour,
with the Advice of the Council,

J. Willard, Sect.

J. BELCHER.

GOD save the KING.