

1835-

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS HONOR

SAMUEL T. ARMSTRONG.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

A

PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC FASTING, HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.

A recognition of the superintendence of Divine Providence is reasonably expected of all men. As dependents, we require support; as wanderers, we need guidance; as offenders, we supplicate forgiveness. The propriety of devoting portions of time to the duties of prayer and fasting, has the sanction of usage, reason, and scripture. The recurrence of such seasons arrests the attention of the inconsiderate, and recalls the thoughtful to the obligations of self examination and penitence, leading to correct views of ourselves, and of the relations we sustain to our Maker and to Man. The good People of this Commonwealth have made known their opinion by uniform adherence to the laudable example of our forefathers; and have expressed their belief in the efficacy of prayer, by perseverance in the annual consecration of a day for its more especial exercise.

Therefore, **THURSDAY, THE NINTH DAY OF APRIL NEXT**, is hereby appointed to be observed as a Day for **HUMILIATION, FASTING AND PRAYER**; and the good People of Massachusetts are earnestly requested to suspend the pursuit of their secular occupations, which may be inconsistent with the duties of the day, and, in the religious assembly, as well as in private, with sincere and contrite hearts, make humble confession of their offences, and offer their prayers to Almighty God, supplicating for His benign favor upon our country, and our fellow citizens generally;—

More especially, for all men in offices of influence and power; that they may discharge their duties with impartiality and fidelity;—

For the universal diffusion of the principles of Religion, Liberty, and good Learning; that our people may avoid the guilt of licentious-

ness, and the reproach of ignorance; and that piety, justice, moderation, temperance and frugality, may distinguish us, as our fathers were by those qualities and virtues distinguished;—

For the continuance of our peaceful relations with all nations; that we may not be disquieted by domestic contentions, nor involved in wasteful, cruel, and corrupting war;—

For the Youth of our land; that their minds may be irradiated with all useful truth; and that, possessing the habits of virtue, with the principles of knowledge, they may rise up hereafter to the employments of active life, qualified and disposed to serve and save their country;—

For the inestimable blessing of health; that no pestilence may lurk in the breezes, but that, refreshing us, wafted from the sea or the shore, they may bear away the devout aspirations of gladness and gratitude;—

For the genial influences of sun and showers, that these, being kindly dispensed, the fields may yield abundant increase for the wants of all;—

For the success of our lawful enterprizes; that the industrious may obtain employment, and liberal rewards await the toils of the laborious, in the honorable pursuits of all classes and conditions of men;—

That the light of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ may shine upon all Nations; that Christians, having one name, may have one spirit; that men may live in harmony every where, and that strife and oppression may find no longer a place upon earth.

Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, this fourth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty five, and the fifty ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

SAMUEL T. ARMSTRONG.

By His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, with the advice }
and consent of the Council.

EDWARD D. BANGS, Secretary.

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.