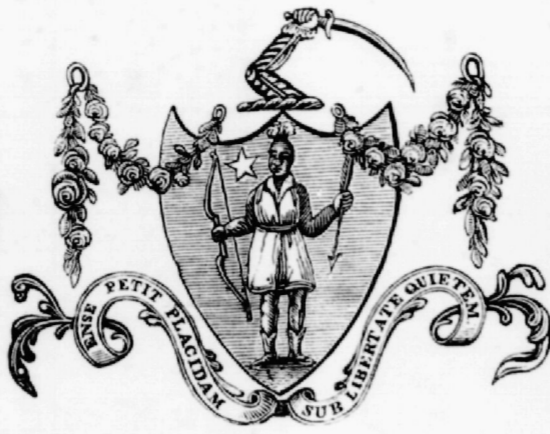


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Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

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BY HIS EXCELLENCY,

GEORGE S. BOUTWELL,

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts :

**A PROCLAMATION**

FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC

**FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER.**

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Divine worship is an individual duty, yet it is appropriate that States acknowledge the existence and recognize the superintending power of the Creator of men and Disposer of nations.

I do, therefore, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint Thursday, the eighth day of April next, to be observed by the people of Massachusetts, as a day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer.

And I earnestly invite the people of the Commonwealth to examine and consider the errors of individual and associated life, the dangers to which as a sovereign State we are thereby exposed, and the nature of our duty to the vicious, the ignorant, the unfortunate among us.

May all invoke the Divine blessing upon our State :—

Upon its institutions of Reformation, Humanity, Education, Religion ;—

Upon its Interests of Labor, of Art, of Commerce ;—

Upon its Relations to the American Union,—that they may be Just, Peaceful, Perpetual ;—

Upon its principles of Government and Religious Freedom,—that they may be finally accepted by the Nations and Races of Men.

*Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this eleventh day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, and of the Independence of the United States the seventy-sixth.*

**GEORGE S. BOUTWELL.**

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

**AMASA WALKER, Secretary.**

**God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts !**