

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

By His EXCELLENCY

## James Bowdoin, Esq.

GOVERNOUR of the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS.

# A Proclamation

## For a Day of publick Fasting & Prayer.

*IT being the indispenfible Duty of a Community, to acknowledge their Dependence on the SUPREME GOVERNOUR of the UNIVERSE; and particularly feafonable, at the Opening of the Year, that the People of this Commonwealth fhould unitedly fupplicate his BLESSING, of which their multiplied Tranfgreffions render them unworthy:*

**I** HAVE thought fit to appoint, and by and with the Advice of the Council, do hereby appoint, THURSDAY, the SIXTH DAY of APRIL next, to be obferved, throughout this COMMONWEALTH, as a DAY of PUBLICK FASTING and PRAYER: And I do exhort both Minifters and People of every religious Denomination, to afsemble in their refpective Congregations, on that Day, and, with true Contrition, confeff their Sins to GOD; and implore the Forgiveness of them through the Merits and Mediation of JESUS CHRIST our SAVIOUR: At the fame Time refolving, by the Affiftance of HIS Grace, not only to forfake them, but to bring forth the pofitive Fruits of a virtuous Life. Earneftly befecching HIM, that HE would be pleafed to fuppreff Vice and Immorality, too prevalent among us; and caufe the Spirit of pure and undefiled Religion to revive, and fpread through the Land: That HE would afford his gracious Influence in the Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary Departments of this Commonwealth: That HE would build up our CHURCHES, and the CHRISTIAN CHURCH in general, in the true Faith of the GOSPEL: That HE would prosper the UNIVERSITY, and all SCHOOLS and SEMINARIES of LEARNING; fo that our Youth may be trained up to all ufeul Knowledge: That HE would prosper our HUSBANDRY, our FISHERY, our MANUFACTURES, and every Branch of ufeul COMMERCE; and crown the Year with PLENTY, and every needed EFFECT of his Goodnefs: That HE would blefs the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; fucceed their COUNCILS at Home, and their NEGOCIATIONS Abroad; preferve and ftrengthen their UNION; blefs their ALLIES, and render the Connection, formed with them, mutually beneficial; and that HE would break the YOKE of the proud OPPRESSORS of Mankind; and eftablifh the righteous and peaceful KINGDOM of GOD our SAVIOUR throughout the UNIVERSE.

AND I DO ftrongly recommend, that all Labour and unneceffary Recreation may be fufpended on that Day.

*GIVEN at the COUNCIL-CHAMBER, in BOSTON, the TENTH Day of MARCH, in the Year of Our LORD, One Thoufand Seven Hundred and Eighty-fix, and in the TENTH Year of the INDEPENDENCE of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA.*

*James Bowdoin.*

By His EXCELLENCY's Command,  
With the Advice and Content of the COUNCIL.

JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.