



COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS.

By HIS HONOR

Thomas Cushing, Esq.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR of the Commonwealth of MASSACHUSETTS.

A

PROCLAMATION,

FOR A PUBLIC FAST.

*IT being our indispensable duty to acknowledge GOD in all our ways, and commit all our affairs, both public and private, to his gracious direction: and as the time is approaching wherein it has been usual, according to the laudable practice of this country, for the people, on a day set apart for the purpose, to humble themselves before Almighty GOD, and implore his blessing upon the business of the ensuing year:*

**I** HAVE thought fit to appoint, and with the advice and consent of the Council, do appoint, THURSDAY the seventh day of APRIL next, to be observed as a day of general FASTING and PRAYER throughout this Commonwealth,—hereby calling upon ministers and people, of all denominations, to assemble together on that day, and with one heart and one voice, to humble themselves before the Throne of Grace, penitently confessing their manifold sins, and imploring the pardoning mercy of Almighty GOD through the merits of Jesus CHRIST; and offering up their fervent prayers, that he would bestow upon us all needful blessings, especially that he would prosper the Councils of the United States in Congress assembled, and of the General Court of this Commonwealth, giving them wisdom, firmness, and unanimity, and directing them to the best measures for the public good: that he would be pleased to preserve and strengthen our union, bless our allies, and render the connexion formed by the United States and those nations, a mutual and lasting benefit: that he would be pleased to give a public spirit to all persons whatsoever, especially to such as are in civil authority, exciting them to pursue the great interest of religion, and the peace and prosperity of their country: that he would be pleased to bless our husbandry, by granting us suitable seasons for the fruits of the earth, and, in due time, a plentiful harvest: that he would prosper our trade, navigation, and fishery: that he would continue our health, and prevent mortal sickness from spreading among us: that he would continue our religious and civil privileges, and bless all schools and seminaries of learning: and above all, that he would make us a truly penitent and reformed people, and cause industry, frugality, and temperance, with all other moral and christian virtues, to prevail among us: that the Christian religion, in purity and power, may be greatly advanced throughout the land, and that all nations may be brought into the spiritual kingdom of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST, and the whole earth be filled with his glory. And it is earnestly recommended to all people throughout this Commonwealth, to observe said day as a day set apart for religious worship, and to abstain from all servile labour and recreation thereon.

*Given at the Council-Chamber, in Boston, the twenty-sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five, and in the ninth year of the independence of the United States of America.*

By HIS HONOR'S Command,  
With the advice and consent of the Council,

THOMAS CUSHING.

JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

GOD save the Commonwealth of MASSACHUSETTS.