

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

**JOHN DAVIS,**

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts :

# A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

**FASTING, HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.**

The seasons, as they change, proclaim the power of the Great Creator ; and the varied year displays the provision made for his dependent offspring. He saith to the snow, be thou on earth :—The ethereal mildness of Spring, and the dropping cloud that displays the bow of promise to the eye of faith, come at his bidding :—He commands the fervid heat of Summer to impart its vivifying influence, and from his bounty proceed the riches of the autumnal harvest :—All are alike the gifts of his beneficence : and by his assurance, that seed-time and harvest shall never fail, man goes forth to his labor inspired with hope and confidence.

God hath made man a living soul, with faculties and affections that will never perish. We have powers to contemplate the perfections of our Creator : to learn his will : to review our lives : and, on repentance for sin, we may through his mercy be purified and renewed.

As accountable beings, it becomes us, on suitable occasions, to withdraw from the temptations which surround us, and with becoming humility to implore forgiveness for our offences. I do, therefore, with

the advice and consent of the Council, appoint **THURSDAY, THE EIGHTH DAY OF APRIL NEXT**, to be observed as a day of **Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer** ; and I do exhort the people of this Commonwealth to abstain from all amusements and unnecessary labor on that day, and to assemble in places appointed for the worship of the living God ; not with vain oblations, but with the acceptable offering of contrite hearts. Let us remember the Fast He hath chosen, to cease to do evil : to learn to do well : to relieve the oppressed : to give bread to the hungry : to clothe the naked : and to seek through penitential prayers for Divine favor.

Let us implore Him to forgive our sins as a people, and to send his spirit into the hearts of all, that we may reverence his holy name and become worthy of his parental care and protection.

Let us pray that the religion of his Son may dispel the darkness which overshadows heathen lands, and that its graces may be exhibited more and more every where, till perfect love shall abound and each heart become a living temple consecrated to the Great Jehovah.

**Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, this eighth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-one, and of the Independence of the United States the sixty-fifth.**

**JOHN DAVIS.**

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

**JOHN P. BIGELOW, Secretary of the State.**

**God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**