
Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

J O H N D A V I S,

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC

FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER.

By and with the consent of the Council, I appoint **THURSDAY, THE SEVENTH DAY OF APRIL NEXT**, to be observed by the people of this Commonwealth, as a **DAY OF FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER**, and earnestly invite them to assemble in their places dedicated to **Public Worship**, that the day may be devoted to the customary **Religious solemnities**.

As a Christian people, it becomes us, with humility and contrition, to bow ourselves before our **Heavenly Father**, imploring the forgiveness of our sins: And while we thus, with penitential sorrow, entreat for the interposition of **Divine Mercy**, acknowledging our imperfections, and the infirmities of our nature, we should not be unmindful of the gratitude which ought to fill our hearts, for our preservation amid the perils which beset life: for the blessings and comforts which are multiplied around us, greatly beyond our merits: for the continuance of the civil and religious liberty which is enjoyed by all our citizens, and is extending its benign influences to the whole human race: for the gratifying progress of moral and intellectual improvement, which gains strength through the increased prevalence of Christianity, and the more extended and liberal means provided for the education of youth and

children: for the measure of prosperity which has been vouchsafed to our citizens in their diversified lawful occupations: and, above all, for the hope of salvation through the intercession of the blessed Redeemer.

Being thus penetrated with humility for our unworthiness, and with gratitude for the signal mercy and forbearance of a just **God**, whose care and protection at all times sustain and uphold us: it is a suitable occasion, by supplication and prayer, to entreat that the invaluable liberties and privileges, which we as free citizens enjoy, may be enlarged and perpetuated: that the embarrassments which press upon industry may be mitigated, and give place to a lasting prosperity: that the coming seasons may be propitious, and the laborer realize the reward of his toil, in the multiplied comforts of life, and in increased moral and mental attainments: that the scourges which afflict our race may be averted, and peace and contentment prevail among the people: that the love of temperance, justice, and mercy may fill all hearts; and that the laws of **Christian Charity, Pure Religion, and Benevolence** may extend their influence, till there shall be glory to **God** in the highest, on earth peace, and good will towards men.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this twenty-sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-two, and of the Independence of the United States the sixty-sixth.

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.