

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

EDWARD EVERETT,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS:

A

PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

PUBLIC FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER.

WHEREAS, the season of the year has arrived, at which it has for a long time been customary in this Commonwealth, to set apart a day for PUBLIC RELIGIOUS EXERCISES, I do, in conformity with this ancient and salutary practice, with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF THE PRESENT MONTH, to be observed as a day of FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER.

The People of the Commonwealth are requested to lay aside their accustomed occupations on that day, and, assembling in their usual places of Public Worship, unite in appropriate acts and expressions of Penitence and Supplication.

Let us on this occasion make humble confession of our aggravated sins, as individuals and as a community, and supplicate forgiveness of a merciful and just GOD, through JESUS CHRIST our Savior.

And while by sincere penitence we seek to obtain the pardon of our past offences, let us implore the continued mercies of our Heavenly Father; more especially,

That He would vouchsafe to us the accustomed blessings of Providence through the year that is opening upon us, and direct to the supply of our wants the wonderful elements and agencies of the

natural world, which, touched by his omnipotent hand, is again starting into life;—

Let us supplicate His blessing on our beloved country, that He would be pleased, notwithstanding our unworthiness and ingratitude, to continue to us the privileges which have hitherto distinguished us as a people;—

That He would in an especial manner, watch over our ancient Commonwealth;—

That He would prosper the people in all the branches of honest industry;—

That He would give efficacy to all the means and instruments of reformation, benevolence, and knowledge;—

And that He would increase the influence of Divine Truth over the hearts and minds of men, and make it powerful to correct, purify, and elevate the character of the People, so as to render them more worthy of their blessings, as the heirs of an immortal hope through JESUS CHRIST.

And I earnestly recommend that the observance of the day be regarded not as an empty form, but as an incumbent duty; and that it be kept in all respects with the seriousness becoming the objects of its appointment.

Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, this first day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States the sixty-third.

EDWARD EVERETT.

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!