

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS HONOR

Levi Lincoln, Esq.

Lieutenant-Governor and Commander in Chief of the
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

A PROCLAMATION,

FOR A DAY OF HUMILIATION, FASTING AND PRAYER.

THE laudable practice in this Commonwealth, of publickly devoting, at the commencement of the year, one day to the exercises of Religious Worship by HUMILIATION and PRAYER, is highly becoming a moral and christian people. To look to the Ruler of the Universe for blessings, to implore his direction and assistance under difficulties; to acknowledge his favors and our offences, is not less the dictate of reason, than an injunction of Piety and Religion.

I HAVE therefore thought fit, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, to appoint THURSDAY, THE SIXTH DAY OF APRIL NEXT, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth, as a day of PUBLICK FASTING AND PRAYER; hereby inviting Ministers and People of every denomination, to assemble on that day, and to humble themselves before that Infinite Being, whose power and providence extending to all worlds and governing the human race, is the Supreme object of their adoration, gratitude and trust; to confess their numerous and aggravated Offences, and to seek his merciful forgiveness. To lament that the Judgments of Heaven which have been abroad in the Earth, and wasted and desolated States and Nations, have not more effectually taught wisdom to the world, admonished us of our ingratitude, and warned us of our dangers; that our passions, prejudices and jealousies have not been sufficiently restrained, and our desire to promote the happiness of individuals and the prosperity of our country, has not been more constant and sincere; to express to Him our unfeigned gratitude, for the preservation of our lives and health, our religious and civil liberty, and for all the manifold benefits conferred upon us; and while other nations are afflicted with all the calamities of War, or are groaning from the effects of Oppression, that no hostile Fleets or Armies have been suffered to visit our shores. To offer our supplications to Him, who presiding in the Councils of Nations, and directing the hearts of men, superintends and controuls all

the agents of his power, that He would graciously smile on our public concerns, over-rule all events for the general welfare; and that the rulers and ruled of our nation, may under no circumstances be influenced but by a spirit of understanding, disinterestedness, and pure love of country—that they may more and more perceive the excellency of the principles of our forms of government, and the necessity of union and virtuous practices, to support and give them effect—that these institutions may become better understood, and more justly respected—that under their influence, our people may lead quiet and peaceable lives, be protected and secured in their rights, liberties and property, and all their lawful pursuits—that husbandry, manufactures and the fisheries may be succeeded and flourish—that our commerce may be every where free from annoyance; and reward, with its richest blessings, the past patience and trials of our citizens—that the approaching season may be fruitful, and the year crowned with abundance.

To implore the Author of all good, that He would be pleased to bless our Schools and Institutions of Religion and Learning, making them the nurseries of good morals, real religion, and sound knowledge; giving to the instructors a spirit of government and instruction, to the youth docility of temper and a thirst for improvement, enlightening, directing and prospering measures for their extension and advancement; multiplying their patrons and benefactors, as friends to the present and future generations throughout the Nation. And above all, that the Gospel of Christ, its principles and precepts, its lights and charities, its guides and comforts, may be every where acknowledged, obeyed and enjoyed; that its spirit may be universally infused into the hearts of preachers and hearers, and thus may produce love, peace and charity towards all mankind.

AND it is recommended that all recreation and employment, inconsistent with a serious and religious observance of that day, be avoided.

Given at the Council-Chamber, in Boston, the Eighth day of March, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Nine, and in the Thirty-Third year of the Independence of the United States of America.

By His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor,
with the advice and consent of the Council. }

WILLIAM TUDOR, *Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

LEVI LINCOLN.

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!