



By His EXCELLENCY

*WILLIAM SHIRLEY, Esq;*

Captain-General & Governour in Chief, in & over His Majesty's Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay* in *New-England*.

*A PROCLAMATION for a publick FAST.*



UPON due Consideration of the present State of this Province, and the remarkable Judgments of Heaven lying upon us; as well in the continued and growing Calamities of War, and the many Difficulties and Embarrassments which attend our publick Affairs, as in the signal Frown of Divine Providence in the Destruction of the Court-House by Fire, and therein of a great Part of the publick Records of the Province and other useful and valuable Writings; By all which GOD is manifesting his righteous Anger against us for our many heinous and aggravated Sins, and does loudly admonish us of the Duty of a speedy and universal Repentance and Reformation;

**I** have thought fit, with the Advice of his Majesty's Council, and at the Desire of the House of Representatives in the late Session, to appoint Thursday the Twenty-eighth of January next to be observed as a Day of solemn Fasting and Prayer, thro'out this Province; hereby calling upon Ministers & People to humble themselves under the mighty Hand of GOD, by penitent Confession of their own Sins and the Sins of this People, and to offer up their humble & fervent Supplications to him to commiserate us in our afflicted State, that by these his fatherly Corrections our Iniquities may be purged, and all the Fruit thereof may be to take away our Sin; That it would please GOD mercifully to direct the Government of this Province in all the difficult Affairs lying before them, especially in all Matters relating to the War; and that he would give a publick Spirit to all Persons whatsoever, especially to such as are in Civil Authority, exciting them to pursue the great Interests of Religion, and the Peace and Prosperity of their Country; That he would give Success to his Majesty's Arms and the Arms of his Allies, and that he would prosper all our Enterprizes against the common Enemy and defend our Sea-Coasts and Inland Frontiers against their Assaults, and put a speedy End to this bloody and expensive War; And, above all, That he would put a Stop to the Progress of a Spirit of Profaneness and Impiety, and that great Dissoluteness of Manners which threatens us with heavier Judgments unless we speedily repent and reform; And that he would hasten the glorious Reign of the Prince of Peace, and establish his spiritual Kingdom over all the Nations of the Earth. And all servile Labour and Recreations are prohibited on the said Day; And the Magistrates and all subordinate Civil Officers are required to use their utmost Endeavours for the preventing and punishing all Disorders thereon.

Given at the Province-House in Boston, the Twenty-eighth Day of December 1747. In the Twenty-first Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Second, by the Grace of GOD of GREAT-BITAIN, FRANCE, and IRELAND, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c.

By Order of His Excellency the Governour,  
with the Advice of the Council,

*W. Shirley.*

J. Willard, Secr.

**G O D Save the KING.**