


Commonwealth of  Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

WILLIAM B. WASHBURN,

GOVERNOR:

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

FASTING AND PRAYER.

I hereby designate, to be observed by the People of this Commonwealth as a day of Fasting and Prayer,

THURSDAY, THE SECOND DAY OF APRIL, NEXT.

Abstaining on that day from our accustomed business and pleasure, and assembling in our respective houses of worship, let us unitedly humble ourselves before Him from whom cometh all our mercies, and beseech Him:

To visit us not with his displeasure, nor reward us according to our deserts;

To stay our feet from the paths of vice, and guide us in the ways of truth and uprightness;

To rebuke fraud and dishonesty wherever they are found, and overthrow the devices of those who work corruption;

To promote the cause of temperance and the rapid spread of that knowledge which quickens the conscience as well as the understanding;

To nurture in us a deeper love of high ideals, a nobler appreciation of integrity and simplicity, and a stronger devotion to virtue and morality;

To keep us in vivid remembrance of the value of our republican institutions, and make us equal to the task of preserving them and handing them down to the next generation;

And to fill us with such a sense of our relationship to Christ that we may rejoice in doing good, and take pleasure in being of service to those who are less favored than ourselves.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this Third day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, and of the independence of the United States of America the ninety-eighth.

WILLIAM B. WASHBURN.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,
BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE COUNCIL, }

OLIVER WARNER, *Secretary.*

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.