

Commonwealth



of Massachusetts.

By His EXCELLENCY

JOHN HANCOCK, Esquire,

Governour of the Commonwealth of MASSACHUSETTS.

A Proclamation,

For a DAY of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING.

IT being the incumbent Duty of a People believing in the over-ruling PROVIDENCE of GOD, upon all proper Occasions, unitedly to make their grateful Acknowledgments to HIM, not only for HIS common Blessings—but especially for the distinguishing Favours, which HE may at any Time see meet to confer upon them:

I HAVE THEREFORE THOUGHT FIT, by and with the ADVICE of the COUNCIL, to appoint, and DO HEREBY accordingly appoint THURSDAY, the *Twenty-seventh Day of November* next, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth, as a DAY of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING and PRAISE:—Calling upon Ministers and Christians of every Denomination, to assemble on that Day, and devoutly to offer to ALMIGHTY GOD, a Sacrifice acceptable to HIM, through the Merits of JESUS CHRIST; expressing their warmest Gratitude for all HIS Favours: Particularly that HE has been pleased to continue to us so great a Measure of Health: That HE has caused the Earth to yield her Increase so plentifully, as that we are supplied with the Necessaries and the Comforts of Life: That HE has prospered our Agriculture, Commerce, Navigation and Fishery: And that we enjoy, not only our civil Rights and Liberties—but that great and important Blessing, the Gospel of JESUS CHRIST;—and that together with the grateful Feelings of their Hearts, they join the penitent Confession of their Sins, and the sincere Obedience of their Lives;—humbly imploring the Continuance of HIS Blessings; and that HE would be graciously pleased to direct and prosper the Administration of Government, not only in this Commonwealth, but in the several States in our Union:—affording HIS Influence in the ensuing Elections, in such Manner, as that their Union and Prosperity may be promoted and confirmed; and above all, that HE would revive the Spirit of Christianity in all Nations professing the same; and that the *Spiritual KINGDOM* of our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST may be continually increasing, until the whole Earth shall be filled with HIS GLORY.

And it is earnestly recommended that all Labour and Recreation unfuitable to the Solemnities of that DAY, be suspended.

G I V E N at the COUNCIL-CHAMBER, in BOSTON, this *Twenty-ninth Day of October*, in the Year of our LORD, One Thousand seven Hundred and Eighty-eight, and in the Thirteenth Year of the INDEPENDENCE of the United States of AMERICA.

JOHN HANCOCK,

By his Excellency's Command,

With the Advice and Consent of the Council,

JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

G O D save the Commonwealth of MASSACHUSETTS!