



Commonwealth of *Massachusetts*.

By His EXCELLENCY

JOHN HANCOCK, Esquire,

Governor of the Commonwealth of *Massachusetts*.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N,

For a Day of FASTING and PRAYER.

*I*T being our indispensable Duty to acknowledge our absolute Dependance on the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, by seeking for Direction and Success in all our Affairs; and the Approaches of the Spring more especially calling upon us publicly to implore the Divine Blessing on the Concerns and Occurrences of the Year ensuing:

I HAVE thought fit to appoint, and with the Advice and Consent of the Council, do appoint THURSDAY, the fifteenth Day of APRIL next, to be observed as a Day of general Fasting and Prayer, throughout this Commonwealth; hereby calling upon Ministers and People, in their respective religious Assemblies, devoutly to observe the same, by humbly and penitently confessing their Sins, and imploring pardoning Mercy of GOD, through the Merits of JESUS CHRIST, and by offering up fervent Prayers and Supplications to Almighty GOD, for all those Mercies which we stand in Need of, especially that he would bless the public Councils and Determinations of Congress, giving them Wisdom, Firmness and Unanimity; and directing them to the best Measures for the public Good: That he would please to preserve and strengthen the Union, bless our Allies, and render the Connection formed, mutually Beneficial: That the Blessings of civil and religious Liberty, of good Government and Order, may be the happy Portion of the People of this Commonwealth, and that being lately rescued through the Divine Goodness, from the Danger and Calamities of War, they may long enjoy the Blessings of Peace: That through the course of the Year the Administration of civil Government, the Husbandry, Merchandize, and Fishery, may be blessed and prospered: That he would crown the Year with his Goodness, and cause Health to prevail through the Land: That he would bless all Schools and Seminaries of Learning: That he would please to give us true Repentance, forgive us our Sins, and endue us with his Grace, so that all Orders and Ages of Men may amend their Lives: And that the Religion of our blessed Saviour, in the Purity of it, may prevail throughout the World.

And I do recommend to the People of this Commonwealth to abstain from all servile Labour and Recreations on said Day.

GIVEN at the Council Chamber in BOSTON, the thirteenth Day of March, in the Year of our LORD, One Thousand, seven Hundred and Eighty-Four, and in the eighth Year of the INDEPENDENCE of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA.

JOHN HANCOCK.

By his EXCELLENCY's Command.

JOHN AVERY, jun. Sec'y.

GOD save the Commonwealth of MASSACHUSETTS.