

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

LEVI LINCOLN,

Governour of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

A PROCLAMATION,

FOR

A DAY OF PUBLIC FASTING, HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.

IT becomes frail, erring, and dependent Beings, with penitence and prayer, *individually*, to humble themselves before the throne of infinite grace and mercy, in contrite acknowledgement of their imperfections and sins, and in earnest supplication of forgiveness, and for future favor and blessing. And the precepts of wise Predecessors, and the example of pious Ancestors recommend this solemn service, by *Communities of Men*, occasionally, in a public manner.

Impressed with these sentiments, and by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, I do, therefore, appoint **THURSDAY, the Sixth Day of April next**, to be observed, as a day of **Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer**, by the People of this Commonwealth. And I do invite the several Religious Societies, of every denomination, to assemble on that day, in their respective places of public worship, for the performance of the services suited to such an occasion;—Unitedly to offer unto Almighty God, the confession of their many transgressions, and of their oft repeated neglects of duty;—to lament the profanation of His Holy Name, the disregard of His authority, and the practical disobedience of His sacred laws;—to recognize, in the afflictive dispensations with which they are visited, the chastenings of divine reproof and correction;—to acknowledge, before the source of all mercy, the unworthy use they have made of the infinite bounties of a beneficent Providence, and the poor improvement of the opportunities with which they are pre-eminently favored, for acquiring

knowledge and wisdom, which, through the mediation and gospel of Jesus Christ, are unto eternal salvation.

And let the prayers of the whole people be addressed to Heaven, for the influence of a spirit of repentance and reformation, in the manners and morals of Individuals and of the Community;—that a chaste and pure conversation, temperance and sobriety, industry, love of order, benevolence, Christian charity, piety, the virtues and graces which form the moral and adorn the religious character, may become the distinguishing habits, enjoyment and glory of the present times.

And, especially, may they commend to the protection and blessing of God, through the year, the important interests of our Commonwealth, and of our Country;—supplicating for the health of the People;—for their grateful confidence in the gracious promise of seed time and harvest; for their success in useful business, and in all lawful employments;—for wisdom to direct in the civil and political affairs of their Governments;—for a sense of dependence upon, and of obligation to, Heaven, for the present possession of the privileges and blessings which they enjoy;—and for an active and effectual sympathy for the abject, the oppressed, and the miserable of their Fellow Men, wherever kindness, charity and relief may reach them, and throughout the world.

And I do recommend to the people of the Commonwealth to abstain, on this occasion, from whatever is inconsistent with its religious observance.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this Twentieth day of February, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-Six, and the Fiftieth Year of the Independence of the United States of America.

LEVI LINCOLN.

*By His Excellency the Governour, by and with the
advice and consent of the Council.*

EDWARD D. BANGS, *Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!