



By His Excellency

**WILLIAM SHIRLEY, Esq;**

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

# A PROCLAMATION for a publick *FAST*.



T having pleased Almighty GOD to manifest his righteous Anger towards this People, in causing a mortal Sickneſs to prevail in divers Towns in this Province in the Year paſt; which there is juſt Reaſon to fear may be followed by ſtill greater and more general Calamities, if we remain impenitent: And as the opening Spring leads us to acknowledge our entire Dependence upon the Father of Mercies for a Bleſſing upon all the Occaſions and Concerns of the enſuing Year;

**I** have thought fit, with the Advice of His Maſteſty's Council, to appoint Thursday the Fourth of April next, to be obſerved as a Day of Faſting and Prayer throughout this Province; hereby calling upon Miniſters and People, with the deepeſt humiliation and Contrition, to confeſs and bewail their own Sins, and the Sins of the People, and to aſcribe Righteouſneſs to GOD in all the Corrections of his holy Hand, devoutly acknowledging his undeſerved Patience and Goodneſs in mixing ſo much Mercy with his Judgments; and earneſtly to ſupplicate theardon of our manifold and aggravated Tranſgreſſions, and that he would turn away his Anger from us, and deliver us from our juſt Fears of his threatned Judgments, and confer upon us all needful Bleſſings ſpiritual and temporal; Particularly, That it would pleaſe GOD (by Whom Kings reign) to bleſs our Sovereign Lord the KING, the Prince of Wales, the Duke, and the reſt of the Royal Family with long Life and Health; That he would direct and proſper His Maſteſty's Counſels (particularly thoſe of the high Court of Parliament) for the Security and Happineſs of the Britiſh Nation, and for the Preſervation of the general Peace of Europe; That he would graciously incline the ſeveral Governments of his Maſteſty's Colonies in North-America, to unite in ſuch Meaſures as may be for their common Safety and Proſperity, and for fruſtrating all Deſigns that may be formed againſt them; That GOD would grant his gracious Influences on the Counſels and Adminiſtrations of this Government, more eſpecially for preſerving Peace on our Borders and preventing the Calamities of War; That he would reſtore and continue Health in our Towns and Plantations; That he would mercifully favour the Huſbandry of this Land, and grant us ſuch ſuitable Influences of the Heavens, as that the Earth may yield it's Increate, and provide Food convenient both for Man and Beaſt; That he would proſper our Trade and Navigation and other Works of our Hands; That he would continue our religious and civil Liberties: And above all, That he would make us a penitent reformed People; and cauſe Induſtry, Frugality and Temperance, and all other moral and Chriſtian Vertues to prevail among us; And that the ſaving Knowledge of the only true Religion of our Lord JESUS CHRIST may be propagated in it's Power and Practice among the Nations of the Earth, and that no Weapon formed againſt it may proſper, and that every Tongue that riſes againſt it in Judgment may be condemned.

And all ſervile Labour and Recreations are prohibited on the ſaid Day.

*GIVEN at the Council-Chamber in Boſton, the Sixteenth Day of March, 1754, in the Twenty-ſeventh Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Second, by the Grace of GOD, of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c.*

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

J. Willard, Secr.

W. Shirley.

**GOD Save the KING.**