



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 general FAST.



HEREAS it has pleased Almighty GOD to manifest His righteous Anger, in the Continuance of the expensive and destructive War, in which the Nations of *Europe* are involved (notwithstanding the Overtures which have been made for bringing the same to a happy Conclusion) and, in his sovereign and holy Providence, to distinguish this Province by rendering the Burthens and Calamities of War remarkably grievous and distressing to it, in the Number of People that have been slain and captivated by the Enemy, and have perished by Sickness and other Disaster, and by taking off so many of our People from the Business of the Husbandry; whereby (as well as thro' the Unsuitableness of the Weather in the several Seasons of the last Year) the Necessaries of Life are become scarce and dear; And whereas the Spring Season is now advancing, and our great Dependence for the Fruitfulness of the ensuing Year, as well as in all our other publick Interests and Concerns, is on the Divine Favour and Blessing;

**I** have thought fit, with the Advice of His Majesty's Council, and at the Desire of the house of Representatives, to appoint Thursday the Ninth Day of April next, to be observed as a Day of publick Fasting and Prayer throughout this Province; hereby calling upon Ministers and People religiously to attend the Duties of the Day, by humble and penitent Confession of the many and aggravated Sins of this People, and Acknowledgement of the Justice of GOD in the Instances of his great Displeasure against us for our manifold Offences, more especially for our Incongruities under his Judgments, and Unthankfulness under the signal Successes and Deliverances he has granted to us in the Years past; And with our Confession of Sin, to join our humble and fervent Supplications to Almighty GOD for the Life of our Sovereign Lord the KING, the divine Direction and Conduct to his Majesty's Councils, and Success to his Arms, and the Arms of his Allies, for reducing the Power of our Enemies and bringing them under the Necessity of agreeing to a solid and lasting Peace: That it would please GOD to bless their Royal highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke, and the rest of the Royal Family: That he would vouchsafe his wise and gracious Indulgence upon the Councils and Administration of the Government of this Province, especially in the important Affairs of the War, protect our Sea-Coasts and Inland Frontiers from the Invasions and Depredations of our Enemies, and prosper all our Enterprizes against them; That he would continue our health, and grant us suitable Seasons for the Fruits of the Earth, and in due Time afford us a plentiful Harvest; That he would preserve and comfort our Captives, and succeed the Means for their Deliverance; That he would revive our decaying Trade, That he would grant us a long Continuance of our Religious and Civil Privileges; and above all sanctify to us the various Dispensations of his providence, and beget in us an universal Repentance and Reformation, and that the Power of Godliness may prevail in our Nation and Land, and that the whole Earth may be filled with the Knowledge of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. And all servile Labour and Recreations are forbidden on the said Day.

Given at the Council-Chamber in Boston, the Twenty-first of March, 1740. In the Twentieth 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 the Governor,  
with the Advice of the Council,  
J. WILLARD, Secy.

W. Shirley.

**GOD Save the KING.**