

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN A. ANDREW,

GOVERNOR:

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

FOR A DAY OF

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

By and with the advice and consent of the Council, I appoint THURSDAY, the 7th day of December next, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise.

Lifting up our hearts and voices to "the Lord God of Israel who only doeth wondrous things," let the people of Massachusetts, uniting with the whole body of their loyal countrymen, on this return of our Annual Festival of Thanksgiving, swell with songs of Praise the chorus of National gratitude and universal joy.

"He has crowned the year with his goodness; and his paths drop fatness; they drop upon the pastures of the wilderness, and the little hills rejoice on every side. The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing."

In a spirit of forgiveness and charity toward all,—while rejoicing in the gift of grace in time past to encounter the perils and sufferings of war for our country and for mankind,—let us adore the goodness which has given such Victory and such Honor to the Right; has restored Peace to our land and the promise of Liberty and unity for all the inhabitants thereof forever.

Let us register anew our solemn vows of fidelity to our country; to the memory of our beloved brothers and sons who have tasted death in her defence; to the claims of want, bereavement and sorrow; to the wives and children whose stay has been broken; to the fathers and mothers whose dim eyes explore the hopes of another world for the sons they shall see no more in this; to the millions delivered by our arms and their own from bondage, yet to be assured in the full enjoyment of the rights of freedom and manhood; and to all those in every land who have stood as our friends in the great day of trial. And in a spirit of fidelity even to our enemies, let there be Peace in our hearts and the promise and assurance of abiding Peace hereafter, to all men of good will.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this eighth day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, and the ninetieth of the Independence of the United States of America.

JOHN A. ANDREW.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,
WITH THE ADVICE OF THE COUNCIL. }

OLIVER WARNER, *Secretary.*

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.