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**Commonwealth of**

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**Massachusetts.**

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BY HIS EXCELLENCY

**NATHANIEL P. BANKS,**

**GOVERNOR:**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**FOR A DAY OF**

**PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.**

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In every age of the world it has been a custom of the people to celebrate, with Pagan or Christian ceremony, the bounties and pleasures of the Autumnal season. The founders of our beloved Commonwealth, who at every step in their career, devoutly acknowledged their dependence upon Divine Providence, were accustomed, at this period of the year, when "the hand of Autumn tinged every fertile branch with blooming gold and blushes like the morn," when their garners were filled with plenty and their hearts with hope, to celebrate, as a religious duty and pleasure, with Public Thanksgiving and Praise, the goodness of God in securing to them the bounties of the harvest; His unfailing support and protection in seasons of public trial, and the Christian faith which He imparted to them through His Divine word and the mission of His Son, the Redeemer of the world.

In pursuance of this ancient and Christian example, by and with advice and consent of the Council, I have appointed, and hereby do appoint, THURSDAY, the TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF NOVEMBER NEXT, a day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE: and I invite the people of the Commonwealth, on that day, to suspend secular vocations, and to assemble in their accustomed places of public worship; that we may acknowledge our dependence upon Almighty God, and solicit his protection and mercy for those who are in affliction and distress; that we may offer up our thanks for the rich bounties of the year; for the preservation of peace; the blessings of public health; the advantages of general education; the inestimable privileges of civil and religious liberty; for the marvellous protection, direction, support and prosperity which He has vouchsafed our people; and especially for the Divine compensations He has established for all inequalities in the conditions of men, and for the Christian faith and hope that sustains them in the trials of life and in the hour of death.

*Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this twenty-eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-fourth.*

**NATHANIEL P. BANKS.**

By his Excellency the Governor, with the  
advice of the Council.

**OLIVER WARNER, Secretary.**

**God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**