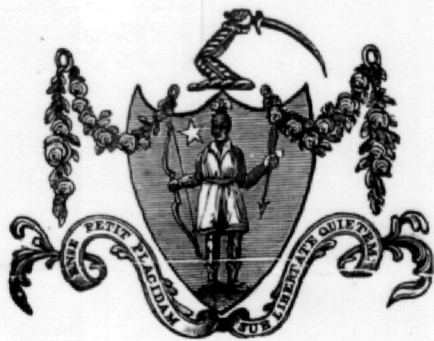


Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

ALEXANDER H. BULLOCK,

GOVERNOR:

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

With the advice and consent of the Council, I hereby appoint THURSDAY, the Twenty-sixth of November next, to be observed as a day of Thanksgiving, Prayer, and Praise.

And I recommend that all the people of the Commonwealth, suspending on that occasion their ordinary pursuits, assemble in places of public worship, and make the offering of contrite and grateful hearts to the Father of mercies for the favor which has accompanied his providence towards us during the year:

That the fields of agriculture, the marts of commerce, and all the agencies of industry, have been blessed with more than common success;

That in an unusual degree health has prevailed throughout our limits, and tranquillity and contentment in our towns and at our firesides have not been disturbed by discord or fear;

That popular education has made greater progress than in any former year since the establishment of the State;

That the rights of human nature have found here an asylum and sanctuary;

That life, liberty, and property have been maintained secure among us by the observance of law, order, and sobriety;

And that the institutions of reform, benevolence, and charity have been upheld beyond precedent by the convictions and by the liberality of the men and women of the Commonwealth.

Let us likewise give thanks that the grace of God the Father Almighty and Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord has been freely bestowed upon families and individuals:

In moving their hearts to direct a share of their prosperity to the spread of the gospel at home and abroad.

In sanctifying the afflictions and relieving the sorrows of their homes by the consolations of their holy religion.

In quickening their sense of sinfulness and their purpose of virtue;

And in bringing the heart to a lively contemplation of its personal relations and obligations to the Creator, the promotion and enjoyment of whose glory is the chief end of man.

It becomes us, then, on the day thus set apart, to convene in our open temples, and, while offering thanksgiving and praise, to supplicate continued mercies for our country, our Commonwealth, and ourselves individually:

For our country, that God, who is the author of peace and lover of concord, will speedily restore reconciliation among all sections and all classes;

For our Commonwealth, that her annals and traditions may not be tarnished in the future years;

For ourselves, personally, that our hearts and lives may be in accord with the Divine commandments, and our end that of the righteous.

"Lord, thou hast been our refuge, from one generation to another."

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this fourteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, and the ninety-third of the Independence of the United States of America.

ALEXANDER H. BULLOCK.

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

OLIVER WARNER, *Secretary.*

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.