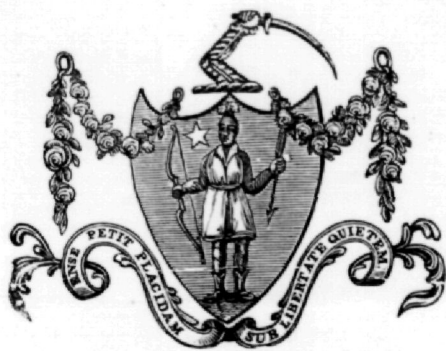


1867  
Commonwealth of



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-eighth day of November next, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise.

Two hundred and thirty-six years have elapsed since the first public Thanksgiving was kept by the people of Massachusetts, who encountered the sorrows of a wilderness for the enjoyment of a pure worship of God. However changed may now be our condition of comfort, prosperity, and power, if we profess to have inherited the virtues of our ancestors, it becomes us to manifest the same sense of obligation to Almighty God, which was manifested by them, for His presence and favor in establishing the foundations of this Commonwealth. They attuned their hearts to public praise in the days of small beginning; our Thanksgiving ought to increase and magnify after the growths and developments of nearly two centuries and a half, upon all of which the Divine blessing has been constantly and graciously bestowed.

I recommend to the people of Massachusetts, that on the day appointed they shall turn from business and pleasure and unite in their temples and households in rendering thanks to the Father of Mercies for His continued favor:

That the blessings of civil and political liberty, hitherto enjoyed by ourselves, have in the present year for the first time come to the possession of a race in our country which before had been deprived of them:

That the waste of war has been supplied during the past season by abounding crops of the fruits of the earth:

That, consequently, whatever interruptions may occur to the prosperity of commerce, the staple of national strength and happiness is secure:

That never before have there been in our country so few who were poor or oppressed, and never before so many whose hearts were open to give aid, comfort, and charity:

That among the people of our own Commonwealth during the year now drawing to its end the pursuits of industry have been generally successful, and that the institutions of religion, education, charity, and reform have been liberally supported and divinely blessed.

To our devout praise for these mercies, let us, upon this recurrence of the annual Thanksgiving, add the discharge of every duty to the unfortunate, and hallow the occasion by a spirit of benevolence towards all.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this eighteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, and the ninety-second 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.