

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY,

**JOHN H. CLIFFORD,**

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS:

# A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC

**THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.**

With each return of the season in which the people of Massachusetts have been accustomed, from the earliest period, to set apart a day for the public recognition of the Divine source of all their prosperity and happiness, the propriety and value of such an observance is the more deeply impressed upon every thoughtful mind, and upon every grateful heart. As a Christian people we cannot fail to recognize its fitness, or cease to invest it with all the reality of a living interest, arising out of the remembrance of our manifold public and private blessings. Each year brings its added causes of gratitude to enrich the substantial meaning of this day, and to make us welcome, with devout hearts, the return of the domestic and religious festival of our Commonwealth.

I, do, therefore, with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint **THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF NOVEMBER** next, to be observed by the people of this Commonwealth, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise.

And I respectfully invite them on that day to suspend their ordinary labors, and to assemble in their respective places of worship to offer to the Great Ruler of the Universe their united thanksgiving for the signal mercies, with which, in the midst of our great unworthiness, He has visited us during the year that is past.

That notwithstanding our habitual presumption and self-reliance, and our frequent forgetfulness of the great truth that without Him we are nothing, and can do nothing, He has been pleased to continue to us the inestimable privileges of civil and religious freedom.

That in the gracious ordering of His Providence by which "He has set the solitary in families," He has preserved for us, amidst the temptations to evil by which we are surrounded, the compensating influence of numerous Homes, whose varied fortunes are wisely planned to mould our nobler powers, and fit us for a higher and better life.

That it has pleased Him to avert from those Homes the invisible contagion which has visited so many other places in our land to leave them desolate; and while our sympathies are awakened and our supplications rise in behalf of our stricken countrymen, let us turn with devout thanksgiving to Him who has graciously spared us from the "pestilence that walketh in darkness and the destruction that wasteth at noon-day."

That it has also pleased Him to reward abundantly the labors of our people in all their varied spheres of usefulness; that they have been signally prospered in the field, the factory, the workshop, and upon the sea.

That He has so guided the national councils, and so regulated the actions of all those to whom places of public trust and responsibility have been committed, as to preserve to our beloved country the blessings of honorable Peace, and of public security, amidst the agitations and uncertainties that have disturbed the internal and international relations of other States.

That He has given to our keeping, and made clear to our consciousness, those precious principles of Liberty which secure our own prosperity, and which are yet destined, by wisdom and prudence, to bless and elevate the people of all other lands.

That He still bountifully favors all the institutions of Religion and Education, and every endowment of Benevolence; and that we are permitted gratefully to witness the constant enlargement of the domains of Knowledge, Charity and Art, which have ever made this Commonwealth the object of our love and pride.

In the decorous and devout observance of the day, may we fervently and unitedly offer up our sincere thanksgiving for all these tokens of His goodness, and be prompted thereby to increased efforts to make ourselves more worthy of their continuance to us, as the citizens of a favored and Christian Commonwealth.

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

**JOHN H. CLIFFORD.**

By His Excellency the Governor, with the advice }  
of the Council.

**EPHRAIM M. WRIGHT, Secretary.**

**God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**