

Commonwealth of



1834
Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN DAVIS,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

THE fruits of the earth on which we rely for sustenance are matured. The husbandman is now reaping the bounties of a kind Providence, as the reward of his toil, and the season is near when it has been customary to offer to the Supreme Being the tribute of our Gratitude for the many blessings conferred upon us.

Our own feebleness and limited intelligence are manifest. We can neither cause the sun to shine, nor the earth to be warmed; the rains to descend, nor vegetation to spring into existence. Today the green grass covers the hills; tomorrow they are veiled with a mantle of snow. Today the trees are clothed with lovely verdure; tomorrow the biting frost reveals their naked limbs. But we can neither make the green grass, or unfold the leaf; nor can we produce their destroyer the frost. Today the currents of life run strong in Man. He sees, hears, thinks, speaks; tomorrow the currents are still, the eye is dim, the ear is deaf, the mind has fled, the voice is dumb; but we cannot make life, or avert the fatal shaft of death. Without food and raiment we should perish, but we cannot make the products of the earth. These are not the attributes of man, but the characteristics of Perfect Wisdom and Almighty Power.

We are, then, humble, dependent beings, relying, for life itself, and all its rational enjoyments, upon Him who gave us and all around us existence;—and it is renewedly our duty to present to Him an offering of grateful hearts; to implore forgiveness of our sins; and to beseech Him to sustain us in the way we should go.

I do, therefore, with the advice and consent of the COUNCIL, appoint **THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER NEXT**, to be observed by the People of this Com-

monwealth as a day of Public Thanksgiving. And the People are requested to assemble in their places of worship, that all may unite in becoming adoration and praise to the Great Parent of the Universe, for the preservation of health among us, while other portions of the Earth have been afflicted with destructive pestilence; for blessing the labors of the Husbandman, the Navigator, the Artisan, and vouchsafing to all engaged in lawful employments many and distinguished favors; for establishing in the human heart the principle of benevolence, which dispenses charities to the poor and consolation to the afflicted; for the continued and enlarged means of moral and intellectual improvement; for numerous deliverances from perils which have beset our paths; and, especially, for the blessings of the Gospel of CHRIST, which exalts, purifies, and redeems the soul from sin.

And, while we thus render, to our Father in Heaven, our tribute of Gratitude for the favors which we daily receive from His benevolence, we should learn to trust in His mercy; to confide in Him to sustain us amid perils and want; to honor Him with obedience; to be grateful in prosperity; to be submissive under the chastenings of adversity; and to mingle with our thanks for past good, and with our confiding assurance in His Divine Providence, aspirations for the prosperity, the health, the happiness, and moral improvement, of all the People of the Commonwealth;—for the lasting Union of the States;—that the Government over them may be administered with wisdom;—that power, wherever entrusted, may be exercised lawfully and with moderation;—that the blessings of civil and religious Liberty may be continued to us and extended to all Mankind; and that Christianity may be spread abroad, filling every where the hearts of men with piety, with the love of peace, and with a zeal to do good.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this first day of October, in the year
of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, and the fifty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States.

JOHN DAVIS.

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

EDWARD D. BANGS, Secretary.

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.