

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.



By His Excellency

WILLIAM EUSTIS,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

A PROCLAMATION,

FOR A DAY OF

Public Thanksgiving and Prayer.

To acknowledge their obligations to the Almighty Ruler and Governor of the Universe, and their constant dependence on Him, is the duty of all men. In this favoured land, where we enjoy privileges and blessings unknown to many other nations, it becomes us, in a peculiar manner, to render thanks to God for the distinguished favours, which he has been pleased to bestow upon us: And as the season approaches, when, in imitation of the example of our venerable ancestors, a day has been set apart for this laudable purpose;—

I have thought fit to appoint, and, by the advice and consent of the Council, do hereby appoint **THURSDAY, the twentieth day of November next**, to be observed as a day of **PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER**, throughout this Commonwealth; calling upon ministers and people of every religious denomination, to assemble on that day, unitedly and with one accord to render thanks to God for his manifold goodness towards us; that he hath granted us the blessing of health, while a portion of our fellow-citizens in other States have been visited with a wasting pestilence; that he hath been pleased to order the seasons favourably to us, to prosper the labours of the husbandman, our manufactures, commerce, and the useful arts—that the means of education and of acquiring useful knowledge are advancing and improving;—that our civil and religious rights

are continued to us, and that a spirit of benevolence, of harmony and concord presides over our public institutions and over our social enjoyments.

IT becomes us to render our praise and thanksgiving to the throne of grace with humble and contrite hearts, acknowledging our unworthiness and manifold sins, praying for their forgiveness, with a determination to forsake them, and, by the divine blessing, to correct our hearts and our lives. We may then humbly pray for the continued smiles of Providence on the work of our hands, and particularly on our civil institutions; that our invaluable rights and liberties may be secured to us; that the administration of the government of the United States, and of this and the other States in the Union may be in strict conformity with their respective constitutions; and that the people may cultivate the virtues of temperance, frugality and industry, of charity and brotherly affection; and, by becoming more holy, that they may be more happy: That it may please God to put an end to all invasions on the civil and religious rights of man, to prosper the nations who are contending for those rights; and that civil and religious liberty may be established throughout the world. Above all, that the mild and peaceful religion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ may be continued to us in its purity, and be diffused through every nation on earth.

It is earnestly recommended that the people abstain from all labor and recreation incompatible with the solemnities of the day.

Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, this eighteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Twenty Three; and of the Independence of the United States of America, the Forty Eighth.

WILLIAM EUSTIS.

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

ALDEN BRADFORD, Secretary.

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.