

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY,

**ELBRIDGE GERRY, Esq.**

Governor of the Commonwealth.

# *A Proclamation,*

For a Day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING, PRAISE,  
and PRAYER.

**THE** Omnipotent Father of the Universe, being at all times and throughout all Creation the adorable Object of his creatures; and the People of this State in the revolving year being under inexpressible obligations to Him, for the profusion of his blessings—They are called on by every sense of duty and gratitude, devoutly to reverence and worship the Supreme Majesty of Heaven and of Earth, penitently to confess their manifold sins and iniquities, and humbly to implore his pardon, his Divine assistance, and the continuance of his mercy and beneficence. Influenced by these impressions, and by the laudable example, on similar occasions, of our pious ancestors—

I do, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint THURSDAY, the TWENTY-NINTH DAY of NOVEMBER next, to be a day of Public THANKSGIVING, PRAISE, and PRAYER, throughout this Commonwealth—And the Ministers and People therein, of every religious denomination, are called on and requested, to meet on that Day, that with one heart and voice we may prostrate ourselves at the throne of heavenly Grace, and present to our Great Benefactor, sincere and unfeigned thanks, for his infinite goodness and mercy towards us, from our birth to the present moment—For having, above all things, illumined us by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, presenting to our view the happy prospect of a blessed immortality—For having inspired our forefathers with civil and religious principles, which enabled them to brave every danger, to subdue a savage Wild, a World of itself, and to convert it into a christian land, the last resort, at this eventful period, of inestimable Liberty—For the establishment of a Federal and of State Constitutions, which, duly administered under Providence, cannot fail of making this Country, the admiration of mankind—For having from time to time favoured us with an able and patriotic national Government, and for the happy prospects we now enjoy, under our upright, wise and mild federal Administration—For the continuance of that great national blessing, Peace, by which this Country is rapidly progressing to the highest grade of political happiness and independence; while of late many nations have fallen, and others are on the eve of being also victims to unavoidable conflicts—For the patriotic and martial spirit which animates the Militia, that great and sole palladium of Liberty, to be prepared at this dangerous crisis and on all occasions, for national defence. For the remarkable prevalence of health among us—For the undisturbed enjoyment of our civil and religious rights, and for the daily increase, in the exer-

cise of both, of that liberality and toleration, which are ever the result of wisdom and magnanimity—For the support and success of our Colleges and other literary establishments, so essential to the welfare and happiness of society—For the smiles of Providence on our husbandmen, the great and efficient cause of the plentiful fruits of their labour and industry—For the happy prospect of the return of commerce to her wonted lucrative channels—For the revival of our fisheries—For the increase of our manufactures—And for innumerable other blessings, which we experience every moment of our existence.

And contemplating the Infinite Power and Wisdom of that Being who has created and prescribed unerring rules for the support and government of the celestial, the moral, and the physical worlds; who has endowed us with reason, which presents to our view every star that adorns the firmament as the sun and centre of a revolving system; who enables us to discover that man and every creature, however minute, are organized and formed in a wonderful manner for preserving life, and for the continuance of their species; and that the earth, by a like order of nature, invariably produces for every living thing subsistence during every moment of its existence. Contemplating these and similar objects, may we fall prostrate before that Infinite and Incomprehensible Being, realize that in his presence we are incomparably less than the smallest insects, and implore his pardon for the presumption of addressing Him, but encouraged by the intercession of a Saviour, may we fervently pray that He will continue to us the many blessings we enjoy—That He will spread far and wide the benign influence of the Gospel—That He will enlighten, aid, and render successful the national and state rulers in each department of Government, our pious teachers, and the people, in the discharge of their several duties. That our commercial concerns and fisheries may be restored to their former flourishing state—That man, born to be the friend, may no longer be the destroyer of his species—That philanthropy may every where triumph over oppression—And that War, the great scourge of humanity, and its prevailing cause, Tyranny, may cease throughout the Globe.

And I do earnestly recommend to the Citizens of this Commonwealth, whilst they rationally enjoy this festival, to abstain from such labour and recreations, as may be inconsistent with their duty on that day.

*Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this twenty-fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and ten, and in the thirty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States.*

**ELBRIDGE GERRY.**

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

**BENJAMIN HOMANS, Secretary of the State.**

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!