

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

LEVI LINCOLN,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

A REVIEW of the Blessings, which a Beneficent Providence has vouchsafed to the People of this Commonwealth, through the past year, must fill their Hearts with a sense of dependence upon the Divine Bounty, and move their Lips to expressions of Adoration, Gratitude, and Praise.

AFTER the manner to which they have been accustomed, and, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, I now invite them, unitedly to offer to ALMIGHTY GOD their ascriptions of THANKSGIVING, in the observance of THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF NOVEMBER NEXT, as a RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL, throughout the Commonwealth.

INSPIRED with a sentiment of pious and reverential acknowledgment for the Mercies they have experienced, may they, on that day, on Altars dedicated to the worship of the MOST HIGH, present the incense of a fervent spirit, rejoicing in the moral government of the Universe, and confiding in the promises and sanctions of the Divine Law.

MAY their devotions be enkindled to a higher glow of gratitude, by recounting, together, the especial causes for *thankfulness*, which their individual, relative, and social condition creates;—that Life has been spared, and Health preserved, from the frightful pestilence which has wasted the population of other places;—that a fruitful Harvest has been gathered to the Garners of the Husbandman, and the means of abundant supply furnished to demands for subsistence;—that occupation in the Arts, and employment in all the Departments of useful Industry, have been attended with encouragement and reward;—that vice has been rebuked, and the virtues of temperance and frugality pro-

moted,—that Peace has been preserved to the Land, and order, security, and domestic concord maintained among the people.

AND in view of the advantages for intellectual and moral improvement with which they are pre-eminently favored, may they give GLORY TO GOD, that Institutions of Learning and a pure Religion, planted by the piety of their Ancestors, in *their* weakness, have been cherished and confirmed, in the strength and virtue of their Descendants, and that they have for a rule of conduct the WORD OF ETERNAL TRUTH, and hope of Salvation, by obedience to the Scriptures, through Faith in the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

WITH THANKSGIVING and PRAISE, may there be PRAYER and SUPPLICATION to the THRONE of GRACE, for the continued Favor of Heaven towards our Beloved Country:—That it would please the Sovereign Ruler of the Nations, to direct, by the guidance of his wisdom, the Public Councils:—To bless the Federal and State Governments, and those, who, by expressions of the confidence of the Citizens, are, from time to time, called to administer them:—To inspire the People with a just sense of the value of their privileges as *Free-men*, and of their duty and high responsibility to transmit, unimpaired, an Inheritance of civil liberty and social happiness, to an educated, enlightened, and virtuous Posterity, *in one great and united Nation*.

To the observance of the appropriate religious services of a Thanksgiving Occasion, may there be added a practical manifestation of Charity to the Poor, Sympathy with the Afflicted, and an expansive Benevolence towards the Ignorant, the Dependent, and the Oppressed, of the Family of Man.

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

LEVI LINCOLN.

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

EDWARD D. BANGS, Secretary.

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.