

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

**MARCUS MORTON,**

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

# A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

**PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.**

ACKNOWLEDGING, at all times, the gratitude due to Him, with whom is the fountain of life, and who is the Author of all good, the people of Massachusetts have yet been accustomed, near the close of each year, in a more solemn manner to meet together and publicly confess, with thanksgiving, their entire dependence on His providence. His power, that guides the planets in their course, has not suffered seed-time or harvest to fail; has given quickening warmth to the sun; has sent the early and the latter rain; and has ripened for the husbandman the fruits of his toil. Except the Lord had been with him the toil had been in vain. It is His guardian care that has provided an inheritance for all who wait on Him and keep His way.

In conformity, therefore, to the usage of our fathers, I have thought proper to appoint, and do, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, hereby appoint **THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF NOVEMBER NEXT**, to be observed as a day of **THANKSGIVING, PRAISE, AND PRAYER**, throughout the Commonwealth. And I do invite the whole people, in their respective places of worship, to give thanks to Almighty God for his manifold blessings on the labors of the year; for the fruitfulness of the season; for the prosperity that has attended those that go down to the sea in ships; for the success of our industry in its various pursuits; that no pestilence has gone abroad at noonday to destroy; that no sickness has wasted the fold.

Nor would we give thanks to God for outward blessings only, but would desire to be grateful for the wonderful works that He did for our fathers, who put their trust under the shadow of His wings; for the blessed institutions of civil and religious liberty, which they estab-

lished and have transmitted; for the gracious mercy of His infinite goodness, which has given light to every one that cometh into the world, and thus raised the hope that freedom will continue to make progress, till the bonds of oppression shall every where be broken, and the equal rights of man be established among all who have received from the Father of Spirits the gift of reason and affections: but, above all, for the glorious redemption of mankind, by His Son, decreed from the foundation of the world, by Him whose faithfulness knows no change; for the blessed influence of the gospel in reforming the social and moral condition of man; and for that watchful Providence, which brings good out of evil and turns sorrow into joy, compelling even the worst passions of men to minister to the Divine councils, and making all things conspire together for good.

And while we render praise to Almighty God for all His benefits, we would supplicate the aid of His Spirit to give us a living sense, that all the glory is due to Him; that we are but the creatures of His power, enjoying manifold advantages from His unmerited grace; that we have but gathered what He has given; that if we are filled with good, it is because He has opened His hand.

And we would further beseech Him, that this people may become to the nations an example of righteousness and peace, of freedom and order, of sobriety and just judgment, may make His will their law, and found their well-being and their good name on obedience to His word;—that, while He has made us to learn joy and gladness, He would hide His face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. And may God, who was the God of our fathers, establish His covenant with this people and with their children to the latest generation.

**Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, this first day of October, in the year**  
*of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty, and of the Independence of the United States the sixty-fifth.*

**MARCUS MORTON.**

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

**JOHN P. BIGELOW, Secretary of the State.**

***God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.***