

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

CALEB STRONG,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

A PROCLAMATION,

For a Day of Public Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer.

AS the Supreme Being is the proper object of devotion to every reasonable creature, and we depend upon His mercy for all the enjoyments we have, and all the happiness we hope for ; we ought to manifest the religious temper of our minds by acts of visible worship, and those public expressions of penitence and trust, which flow from hearts affected with a sense of His perfections, and a consciousness of their own guilt and obligation. Impressed with these sentiments, the People of this State have been used to set apart a day, at the beginning of the year, to humble themselves before God, for their numerous offences ; to implore His blessing, and seek of Him a right way for themselves and their children. And such devotional solemnities seem to be peculiarly requisite in the present calamitous and alarming situation of our Country.

THEREFORE, with the advice and consent of the Council, I appoint THURSDAY, the *Seventh day of April* next, to be observed in this State as a Day of Public Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer. And the different Religious Societies are requested to meet together on that day, that we may humble ourselves before the Sovereign Being, who is slow to anger and plentiful in mercy, and confess and deplore our sins, and supplicate his forgiveness, and the influences of His Spirit, through the merits of JESUS CHRIST ; that we may be enabled to approach His presence with profound veneration, and present our addresses with filial confidence and love ; and beseech Him that He would hear from Heaven the supplications of this People, and be nigh to us in all things for which we call upon Him.

THAT He would protect the United States, and preserve their Liberty, Union and Independence :—That the wisdom of our wise men may not perish, nor the understanding of our prudent men be hid :—That the President and Congress, by a discreet and impartial discharge of their respective duties, may promote the peace and safety of the nation ; and that all who are employed in the administration of the National or State Governments, may know what they ought to do, and faithfully do it :—That our Rulers, and those of Great-Britain, may be disposed to an amicable and just settlement of their disputes ; and be as willing to repair the wrongs they have done to others, as to vindicate their own rights :—That He would save us from dan-

gerous political connections, from evil counsels, and rash enterprizes :—That He would put a speedy end to the calamities of the present war, and prevent any further effusion of blood ; and that violence may no more be heard in our land, nor wasting nor destruction within our borders :—That the evils we endure may excite in us such reflections upon our own conduct, as shall convince us, that we have deserved the calamities we are made to suffer ; that God is just in all that is brought upon us, and has punished us less than our iniquities deserve.

THAT, in the course of the ensuing year, He would favor the People of this State with health and plenty ; and bless them in all their increase, and in all the work of their hands :—That He would prosper our public seminaries, and the various means of instruction and education :—That in this time of trouble, He would hide us in the shadow of His hand, and cause us to dwell in safety :—That we may have entire confidence in the wisdom and rectitude of His government ; and know, that whether we see the good or the evil of our Country, it shall be well with them that fear Him ; and that we may be prepared for the hour of trial which may come upon us, and cheerfully repose ourselves on the care of that Being, whose knowledge extends to all the circumstances of His creatures, and whose power can relieve them in all their necessities.

THAT He would regard with compassion the suffering nations of Europe, and deliver them from the violence of bloody and deceitful men :—That the proud oppressors of mankind may be humbled in deep repentance, and be made to acknowledge that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men ; that He can avenge the blood of the innocent, and those that walk in pride He is able to abase :—That the Christian Religion may have its proper effect on the minds of all who profess it, by producing in them sentiments of piety, humanity and justice :—That the Everlasting Gospel may be preached to every nation and people that dwell on the earth :—And that He would hasten the approach of that period, when the fulness of the Gentiles shall come in, and all *Israel* shall be saved.

AND the people are requested to abstain from unnecessary labour and recreation on the said day.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this Eighth Day of February, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fourteen, and in the Thirty-Eighth Year of the Independence of the United States of America.

CALEB STRONG.

By His Excellency's command,
with the advice and consent of Council.

ALDEN BRADFORD, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts !