

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY,

EMORY WASHBURN,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS:

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

Praise is the instinctive impulse of a grateful heart. There are periods when even the heart of a nation swells with emotions of gratitude for signal mercies, and finds utterance in songs of thanksgiving. Such were the manifestations of God's Ancient People, when, in his sensible presence, they lifted up their voices in a nation's anthem. Such was the feeling with which the early men of New England, in a scarcely less conscious communion with the Most High, came together at periods of general prosperity or of special mercy, and in the Congregation offered to Him their sacrifice of praise. And such are the offerings which this favored community should now bring before Him.

The season has been crowned with His goodness. Amidst the alarm at the withholding of the latter rain, He has not forgotten the promised harvest, and the husbandman is rejoicing in the fruits of his labor. Health has been vouchsafed to us, and while disease and pestilence have shed gloom and sorrow over other portions of our land, the destroyer has not been suffered to come nigh our dwellings.

Industry, in every department of honest labor, has been successful, and upon sea and land, in the workshop and on the farm, has found a competent reward. While the physical wants of the community have been supplied, the great ends of civil government have not been suffered to fail; under the guardianship of wise laws, the people have reposed in safety.

Our Schools and Colleges have been accomplishing their work in the education of the young, and the Christian religion, in its power, has been seen in the lives and conduct of men, restraining vice and turning the sinner to repentance. The cause of human freedom has gained new strength from trials, and, in the light of God's Providence, we may be assured of its ultimate triumph.

While these blessings have been showered upon this community, there are few who have not shared in these bounties of Providence. Few are the homes to whose inmates, poverty denies the means of enjoying the return of that holiday which our fathers inaugurated, and their posterity have consecrated to the rites of hospitality and the reunion of scattered households.

To celebrate the goodness which has marked the closing year, to render the devout tribute of grateful hearts to the Author of all good, to cherish the love of country, and strengthen the ties that bind society together, and to foster the kindlier instincts of our nature that minister to each other's wants, I do, by and with the consent of the Council, appoint **THURSDAY, THE THIRTIETH DAY OF NOVEMBER CURRENT**, a day of public Thanksgiving and Praise.

And, I do earnestly recommend that the people should assemble in their respective places of worship on that day, and in a spirit which He shall approve, dedicate it to the praise and worship of Almighty God. And while remembering His mercies, let them seek for His guidance and His aid in all the affairs of life. Let them unitedly and devoutly ask for blessings on our common country, and for the hastening of that day when the knowledge of the Lord shall fill the whole earth, and from every nation and tongue there shall go up a song of Praise and Thanksgiving.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this first day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the seventy-ninth.

EMORY WASHBURN.

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

EPHRAIM M. WRIGHT, Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!