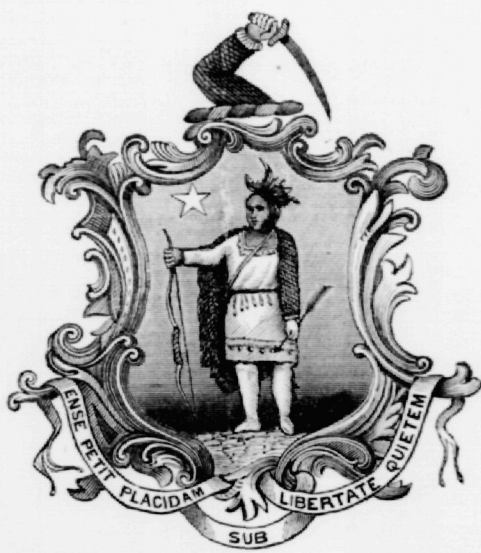


Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

WILLIAM B. WASHBURN,

GOVERNOR:

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

With the advice and consent of the Council, I hereby appoint **THURSDAY**, the 28th day of November next, to be observed as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the blessings wherewith the year has been crowned.

Let us never forget that the custom of observing one day annually in this manner originated with those who were ready to suffer unto death in order that they and their posterity might enjoy freedom in matters of religion and conscience. A little colony of strangers upon a sterile coast, far from kindred and friends and embarked on a doubtful undertaking, exposed to danger from the Indians and brought into the peril of starvation, they consecrated the day by grateful prayer to Him whose favor and protection they clearly and reverently saw in the seasonable weather and the liberal harvest. Thus recalling what it meant to the men and women by whom it was established, let us rejoice that this precious institution of our early history is becoming nationalized. May its worth and significance speedily be so apparent that every State in the Union will give it glad recognition, and all the inhabitants of the land unitedly join in an anthem of praise to the Lord our Defender and Preserver.

I recommend to the people of Massachusetts that on the day appointed they abstain from their accustomed business and pleasure, and that as they assemble in their homes and their houses of worship they render willing and heartfelt thanks ---

That we are spared from famine and pestilence ;

That our country continues at peace with all the nations of the earth ;

That the equality of right and privilege assured our citizens is suffering so little abuse ;

That the ardor and activity of our people are turned to such a multitude of wise and beneficent purposes ;

That the agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing interests of our Commonwealth have been so generally prospered ;

That a steady purpose is manifested to improve the situation of the poor and unfortunate, and to better the condition and prospects of the laboring class ;

That so many are moved to strive for the promotion of that christian liberty and self-respecting intelligence on which the stability of the State and the highest happiness of the individual depend ;

And as we gather at our tables and firesides, with hearts full of gratitude for the blessings we have received, may we abound in charity of act as well as of feeling, and be ministers of comfort and pleasure to those less favored than ourselves — keeping always in mind that the little things of our lives, as well as the great, are signs of that spirit which has acceptance with the Father.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this fifteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the ninety-seventh.

WILLIAM B. WASHBURN.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, }
WITH THE ADVICE OF THE COUNCIL, }

OLIVER WARNER, Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.