

Commonwealth



of Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN HANCOCK, Esquire,
GOVERNOUR OF THE COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS.

A Proclamation, FOR A DAY OF THANKSGIVING.

*Confident of the...
...action...*

HAVING received from THE PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES, the following PROCLAMATION, viz.
" WHEREAS it is the Duty of all Nations, to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty GOD, to obey his Will, to be grateful for his Benefits, and humbly to implore his Protection and Favour: And whereas both Houses of Congress, have, by their joint Committee, requested me to recommend to the People of the United States, a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful Hearts, the many and signal Favours of Almighty GOD, especially by affording them an Opportunity peaceably to establish a Form of Government, for their Safety and Happiness. NOW THEREFORE I DO recommend and assign THURSDAY, the TWENTY-SIXTH day of NOVEMBER next, to be devoted by the People of these States, to the service of that great and glorious BEING, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be: That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble Thanks for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country, previous to their becoming a Nation;—for the signal and manifold Mercies, and the favourable interpositions of his Providence in the course and conclusion of the late War; for the great degree of Tranquility, Union and Plenty, which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational Manner in which we have been enabled to establish Constitutions of Government for our Safety and Happiness, and particularly the National one now lately instituted;—for the civil and religious Liberty, with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful Knowledge;—and in general, for all the great and various Favours, which he hath been pleased to confer upon us. AND ALSO, That we may then unite in most humbly offering our Prayers and Supplications to the GREAT LORD and RULER of Nations, and beseech him to pardon our National and other Transgressions;—to enable us all, whether in public or private Stations, to perform our several and relative Duties properly and punctually;—to render our National Government a Blessing to all the People, by constantly being a Government of wife, just and constitutional Laws, sincerely and faithfully executed and obeyed;—to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations, (especially such as have shown Kindness unto us) and to bless them with good Government, Peace and Concord;—to promote the Knowledge and Practice of true Religion and Virtue, and the increase of Science among them and us;—and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal Prosperity, as he alone knows to be best."

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AND whereas it has been the laudable Practice of our Ancestors, and continued from the first Settlement of this Country, to set a part a Day in the Year, for public and social THANKSGIVING and PRAISE:

I DO THEREFORE, by and with the Advice of the COUNCIL, appoint THURSDAY, the TWENTY-SIXTH Day of November aforesaid, to be religiously observed as a Day of THANKSGIVING and PRAISE, within this Commonwealth: Calling upon Ministers and People to assemble on the same Day, and join with the other States in the Union, in rendering Thanks to ALMIGHTY GOD, for the great Blessings bestowed upon these confederated States. And to acknowledge his manifold goodness to the People of this Commonwealth;—in particular, in that he has been pleased to favour us with so good a measure of Health, the Year past;—to prosper in so great a degree our Husbandry, our Fishery, Trade and Manufactures; but more especially that we still enjoy that most invaluable Blessing, the Gospel of Peace— at the same Time accompanying their Thanksgiving with humble Supplication, that we may ever live mindful of our Obligations to our Divine Benefactor; that his Favours may still be continued to us, and that the Christian Religion in its true Spirit, may prevail amongst us, and be extended to all People upon the Earth.

GIVEN at the Council-Chamber, in Boston, this Fourteenth Day of October, in the Year of our LORD, One Thousand seven Hundred and Eighty-seven, and in the Fourteenth Year of the INDEPENDENCE of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA.

JOHN HANCOCK.

By his Excellency's Command,
With the Advice and Consent of the Council,

JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

G O D save the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS!