

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN A. ANDREW,

GOVERNOR:

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER.

In accordance with the practice and example of our fathers, but not in the spirit of a merely hereditary and formal observance of a day, which, from the depths of a troubled, devout, and tender spirit, they consecrated to the uses of Religion, I do hereby, with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint THURSDAY, the Thirteenth day of April next, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth, as a day of HUMILIATION, FASTING, and PRAYER.

I earnestly recommend to the People of the Commonwealth, that, laying aside the cares of business and the demands of daily and ordinary life, they assemble in their usual places of worship, and humbly seek the Divine face and favor:

For our rulers, that in an unselfish and patriotic endeavor, they may follow that wonderful Providence which has thus far so clearly led us in the stern conflict to which Duty has called this Nation;

For all our citizens, that they may cheerfully bear whatsoever of sacrifice and trial may yet be needed in the future;

For the authors of the terrible strife which has drenched the land with blood, and made desolate the homes of thousands who mourn their slain on so many battle-fields, that the bitterness of war may subdue in them the unhallowed ambition which seeks a selfish supremacy at the cost of the common good;

For our own Commonwealth, let us ask in that faith which prompts the diligent discharge of every duty, that God will grant to us rain and fruitful seasons; that in all the departments of industry He will grant a due reward to the toil of men; and will bless with prosperity all good enterprises of Education, Morality and Religion.

Let us earnestly pray, that in the promise of peace and the triumph of our national arms, we may not forget Whose hand has gotten us the victory; that in the assured prospect of a restored Union, its flag may become a banner of protection and the symbol of equal rights to all men under its folds, of whatever condition and color; and that in the establishment again of the rightful authority of the government, we may not yield ourselves to corruption in the national councils, nor to the dominion of those vices which destroy a people.

Let our fast be that which God hath chosen—to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke; let our humiliation be of that sincerity which fears to mock the Most High with false solemnities; and let our prayer be the penitent outpouring of hearts which recognize the presence and power of that High and Holy One whose Infinite Majesty is unlimited by the boundaries of space or time, but who condescends to come near to all the children of men.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this first day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-ninth.

JOHN A. ANDREW.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,
BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE COUNCIL.

OLIVER WARNER, *Secretary.*

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.