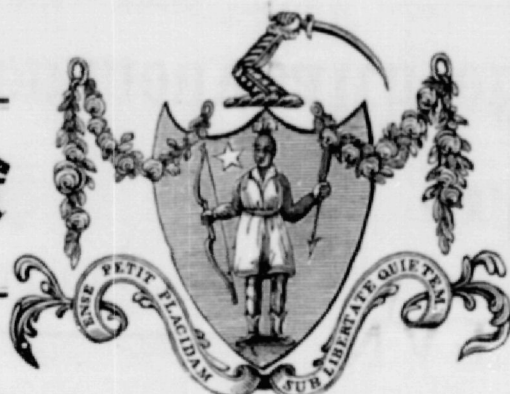

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NATHANIEL P. BANKS,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N

FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC

FASTING, HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.

IT has been a custom of the people of this Commonwealth, from an early period of their history, at this season of the year, to set apart from the cares and pleasures of life, a portion of time in which they might humbly acknowledge their dependence upon Almighty God, and together present their petitions before the Throne of Grace, for a continuance of His signal mercies.

In the belief that it is our duty at this time, as it has been heretofore done by our fathers, to acknowledge our dependence upon Him, to confess before Him our transgressions and to make known to him our supplications, I have appointed, and by advice and with consent of the Council, do hereby appoint THURSDAY, THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF APRIL NEXT, as a day of Public Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer.

And I recommend to the people of this Commonwealth to assemble at their accustomed places of worship, on that day, to make confession of their delinquencies and sins; to make public declaration of their dependence upon the providence of God, and their recognition of His divine hand in the judgments that have fallen upon the human family: That they may implore His divine blessing upon all laudable enterprises of States and of men: That they may present their petitions for the universal diffusion of liberty; that peace and freedom may everywhere reign absolute; that the rich fruits of the earth and the varied blessings of the season may be vouchsafed to them: That age may be rewarded with the tranquil and serene pleasures that attend the last hours of the righteous man, and that the youth of our land may be trained to walk in the steps of those who are fearless, wise and just: That the blessings of education may be everywhere wisely and generously dispensed: That the suffering and sorrows of the poor may be alleviated: That we may be endowed with that wisdom which will enable us to pluck from the calamities that threaten to overpower us the secret of human happiness—indifference to the vanities of life, and dependence upon the providence of Almighty God: And above all that the signal and solemn awakening of hearts that has surprised and gladdened our land, may wash out all traces of sin, silence the contentions of sects, rebuke pride of opinion, and be sanctified to the good of the institutions and people of our ancient and beloved Commonwealth.

And to this end I invite the people, without distinction of sects or conditions, to abandon ordinary vocations and pleasures, and by following the wise and pious example of our fathers, to consecrate the day to penitence and prayer.

Given at the Council Chamber, this thirty-first day of March, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, and the eighty-second of the Independence of the United States of America.

NATHANIEL P. BANKS.

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

OLIVER WARNER, Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!