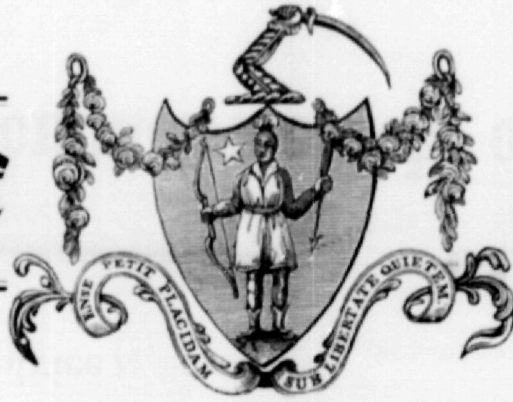


Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NATHANIEL P. BANKS,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

PUBLIC FASTING, HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.

BY advice and with consent of the Council, I have appointed and do hereby appoint THURSDAY, THE SEVENTH DAY OF APRIL NEXT, a day of Public Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer. And I invite the People of this Commonwealth, in observance of a long established, uninterrupted and Christian custom, to pause in the career of prosperity, pleasure or toil, in which they are engaged, that they may confess their transgressions of His law, and offer to Almighty God, their supplications for the continuance of His blessings:—

That He will vouchsafe to us a higher than human faith in the wisdom of His providence, and the justice and mercy of all His dispensations: That He will maintain for the children of this Commonwealth, and of all other States, forever, the blessings of liberty, learning and prosperous labor: That he will relieve those who are in want, succor those who are in distress, comfort those who are in affliction, loosen the shackles of the bondman, and make known to those who live in darkness and unbelief the treasures of Christian faith: and, especially, that He will so strengthen us that, following the injunction of the Apostle of His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, "we may be careful for nothing, but in everything by supplication, with thanksgiving, make known our requests unto God."

Given at the Council Chamber, this twenty-third day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, and the eighty-third 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.