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Commonwealth of

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1851  
Massachusetts.

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BY HIS EXCELLENCY

**GEORGE S. BOUTWELL,**

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

**A PROCLAMATION**

FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC

**FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER.**

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The season is approaching when our fathers were accustomed to implore the Divine forgiveness for their sins, and to seek the blessing of Heaven upon the opening year.

I do, therefore, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint **THURSDAY, THE TENTH DAY OF APRIL NEXT**, to be observed by the people of this Commonwealth as a day of **FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER**.

And I earnestly invite the people of the Commonwealth to abstain from all amusements and unnecessary labor:—

To assemble in their respective places of religious worship:

To consider in the spirit of Christianity the private and public sins of this community:

To invoke the blessing of Heaven upon all useful pursuits,—upon the poor, the afflicted, and the oppressed,—and upon all institutions of education, charity, and religion:

To contemplate the value of their civil and religious privileges:

And, finally, to realize the hand of God in the foundation and continued existence of the wonderful system of government under which they live.

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*Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this eighth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one, and of the Independence of the United States the seventy-fifth.*

**GEORGE S. BOUTWELL.**

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

AMASA WALKER, *Secretary.*

**God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!**