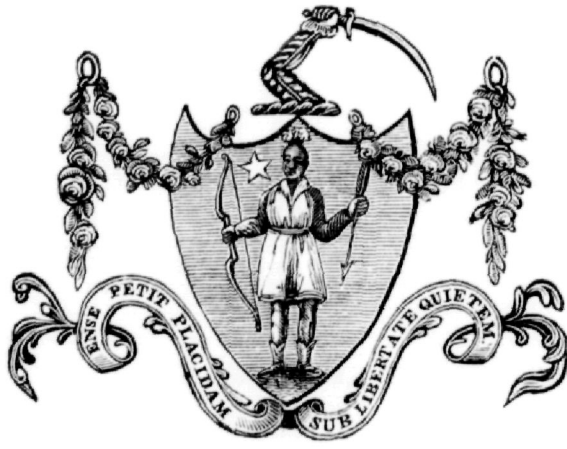

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

GEORGE N. BRIGGS,

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC

FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER.

A sense of dependence leads man to approach the Supreme Being in prayer, and to implore His protecting power. A consciousness of sin and demerit prostrates him in penitence before his Maker, in the hope of deprecating His displeasure.

Communities of men are dependent on God for His blessings. There are public errors and sins which are calculated to awaken the displeasure of the Almighty. To avert that displeasure, and to move His goodness, it becomes them, at stated seasons and on proper occasions, to humble themselves before Him with fasting and prayer.

In temporal and spiritual mercies, the people of this Commonwealth have been highly blessed of Heaven, from the day the pilgrims kneeled upon Plymouth Rock to the present time. In the enjoyment of all these mercies, they have, in a thousand ways, failed to obey the righteous commands of their Creator and Benefactor, and by their transgressions rendered themselves obnoxious to His violated laws.

Having offended against Him, let them publicly acknowledge His bountiful dealings towards them, confess their delinquencies and ingratitude, and invoke His pardoning mercy "through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

To this end, I do, with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint **THURSDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF APRIL NEXT**, to be observed as a day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer, by the people of this Commonwealth. And I do earnestly recommend to all classes, on that day, to dispense with all unnecessary business, assemble in their places

of public worship, and render to the Supreme Ruler and Judge of Heaven and Earth, the sacrifice of humble and contrite hearts.

Whilst with gratitude they acknowledge His past goodness, let them bow before Him, and entreat Him to continue His favors to them:

To prosper them in all their varied and lawful pursuits:

To reward the efforts of the farmer, the manufacturer, the mechanic, and the laborer:

To extend His protecting hand to all "those who go down to the sea in ships":

To look in kindness on the widow, the fatherless, the poor, and the stranger:

To remove the burden from the oppressed, and dispose all our people "to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before God":

To bless all our private and public institutions designed to ameliorate the condition of man, and to improve and elevate his character:

To preserve in the bonds of peace, justice, and integrity, the members of our common government:

Above all, to endow with wisdom and give efficiency to the means in operation to build up the kingdom and disseminate the Gospel of His Son, and hasten the time when its heavenly principles shall fill the hearts, and be manifested in the lives, of the children of men over the face of the whole earth.

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

GEORGE N. BRIGGS.

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

JOHN G. PALFREY, Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.