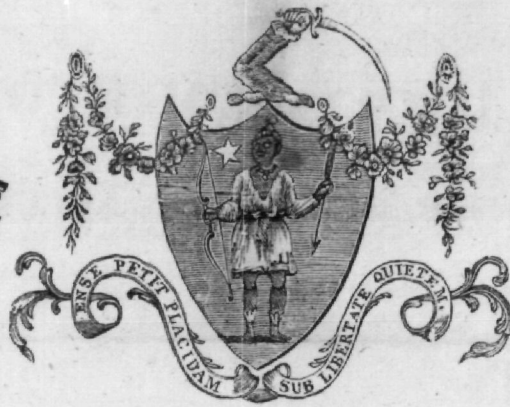


Commonwealth of



1823
Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN BROOKS,

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

A PROCLAMATION,

FOR A DAY OF

FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER.

OUR dependence on God for all the blessings of this life, and for the hopes which the Gospel inspires of a blissful immortality, justly calls for an expression of the most profound and devout sentiments of religious homage from us, who are the daily recipients of His providential munificence, and humble candidates for His future acceptance and favor. And the season having returned, in which, from time immemorial, the people of this community have devoted a day to the public worship of God, by fasting and prayer, and more especially for invoking the blessing of ALMIGHTY GOD on all their concerns for the passing year:

I HAVE thought fit to appoint, and by and with the advice and consent of the Council, do hereby appoint THURSDAY, the THIRD DAY OF APRIL next, to be observed as a day of **Fasting and Prayer**, throughout the Commonwealth. And the people of every religious denomination are requested to assemble on that day, in their respective places of public worship, unitedly to humble themselves, and to confess their sins before God, to implore his pardoning mercy through the mediation of His Son JESUS CHRIST, and the promised aids of His spirit to all such as seek Him in sincerity and in truth, to enable them to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. That He will be pleased to bless and prosper the people of this Commonwealth in their Agriculture and Fisheries, their Commerce and Manufactures, and in all their lawful Enterprizes: That

He will in mercy so order the seasons of the year, that the earth may yield its increase, and the joy of harvest be felt in every habitation and in every heart: That He will be pleased to preserve them from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and from the destruction that wasteth at noon day: That He will smile on our University, our Colleges and other Seminaries and Schools of Learning; on all our Religious, Literary and Benevolent Institutions, and on the rising generation: That He will be pleased to continue to us our Free Constitutions of civil government, and the full enjoyment of our Holy Religion, and grant that its benign influence may be more deeply felt, and more fully exemplified by its professors: That He will vouchsafe His blessing to the President of the United States: That He will prosper the National Government, and continue to our Country the blessings of Union and Peace: That all Institutions, whether National or State, founded on the great principles of philanthropy, and designed to meliorate the condition of the human kind, by rescuing them from barbarism, improving the arts of life, and spreading the knowledge of God, and the way to obtain His favor and future happiness, may experience largely the Divine support and Benediction; and that the whole earth may ultimately be filled with the glory of God.

AND the people are requested to abstain from all labor and recreation, inconsistent with the religious solemnities of the day.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this Fifth Day of March, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Three, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the Forty Seventh.

JOHN BROOKS.

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

ALDEN BRADFORD, Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!