

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

**WILLIAM CLAFLIN,**

GOVERNOR:

# A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

## FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER.

With the advice and consent of the Council, I hereby appoint THURSDAY, the Eighth day of April next, to be observed as a day of Humiliation, Fasting, and Prayer.

It was the custom of the fathers to appoint the annual Fast, not as an unmeaning ceremony for a people living at ease, but as a season when, surrounded by perils, and borne down by hardship and toil, they should resort to the Source of all strength for comfort and a renewal of hope.

There may be a difference of views as to the necessity of these observances; yet it is still a general conviction of the people, that they are fit and proper as expressing dependence and penitence toward God, and as tending to confirm that faith in an overruling Providence, which, while it lifts the soul above the changes of time, aspires to the unfailing possessions and joys of the life to come.

With humble reverence, and with deep contrition of heart, let the people assemble in their respective houses of worship, and, asking forgiveness of their sins and unfaithfulness in the past, implore the blessing of God upon the Commonwealth. Let us unitedly entreat that He may grant to its cherished institutions of religion, education, and charity, enlargement and increased usefulness;

That He may continue to bestow health and all the bounties of his Providence upon our families;

That, through faith in Christ, and the consoling hope of eternal life, He may restore peace and joy to homes made desolate and hearts made sad by bereavement;

That He may dispose those who are favored with an abundance of His gifts, to deeds of charity and beneficence;

That He may crown with success the labors of the field, the workshop, and the marts of trade, and in commercial and professional life;

That He may realize to us the blessings of liberty, good order, and good government, for which we have hoped so long;

That He may incline all so to walk in His fear, and in obedience to His will, as to secure His favor, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine, and of the independence of the United States of America the ninety-third.

WILLIAM CLAFLIN.

By His Excellency the Governor,  
BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE COUNCIL, }

OLIVER WARNER, *Secretary.*

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.