

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN DAVIS,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC FASTING, HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.

THE Fathers of this Commonwealth established the custom of annually setting apart a day to be observed by Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer. This example of piety and Christian meekness has never failed to meet with a response in the hearts of their posterity. The voluntary homage of the whole people, bowing themselves with one accord before their Maker, and confessing their unworthiness, is a solemn spectacle, and cannot fail to make abiding impressions.

God gives and sustains life, and is the Parent of all Good. He spread out the heavens, and placed in the firmament, the sun, the planets, and the stars, that their light, as it shines upon us, may bring with it proofs of His Being, His Power, and His Wisdom. He holds the heavenly bodies in their places, gives us summer and winter, day and night, seed time and harvest, that we may see the perfection of His works, and, amidst the changes of nature, the unchangeable character of His purposes and laws.

All Christians, I trust, will feel an unfeigned pleasure in acknowledging their obligations to Him who upholds the Nations of men, though they are counted but as the small dust of the balance. He is Great, for He is the Creator of all things;—Good, for life comes from Him, and is protected by His Divine Providence;—Merciful, for He has provided a way for penitent sinners, to escape from condemnation and

to attain Eternal Life, through the intercession of the Redeemer.—This Great, Good, and Merciful Being has encouraged us to seek his clemency through prayer. I do, therefore, in conformity with the ancient usage of the Commonwealth, and with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint **THURSDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF APRIL NEXT**, to be observed as a day of **PUBLIC FASTING, HUMILIATION AND PRAYER**. And I do entreat the people to regard it as such, by offering up to God the fervent gratitude of contrite hearts, for their preservation, and for the hopes of future blessedness revealed to the world through His Son; by imploring Him to forgive their sins, and to save them from the allurements of vice; and by beseeching Him to animate the hearts of all with a zealous patriotism, with a love of peace, with a sincere desire to discharge their duties as Christians, as neighbors, and as citizens.

And, while we ask for these favors, let us also entreat, that we may not be visited by pestilence or wasting sickness;—that piety and virtue may adorn the lives of all persons;—that the industrious laborer may be rewarded with abundance;—that all lawful employments and enterprises, by sea and by land, may be prospered;—that the hungry may be fed and the naked clothed;—that the rod of the oppressor may be broken, and the blessings of liberty be preserved to us, and extended to all mankind; that there may be **GLORY TO GOD** in the highest, and on Earth **PEACE**.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this eighth day of March, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty four, and the fifty eighth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

JOHN DAVIS.

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

EDWARD D. BANGS, Secretary.

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.