

Commonwealth of



1838
Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

EDWARD EVERETT,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS:

A

PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC FASTING, HUMILIATION AND PRAYER.

WHEREAS it is incumbent upon us as a Christian People, on every proper occasion, publicly to acknowledge our dependence upon Almighty God, and to implore forgiveness for our manifold offences against the Divine Law; And whereas it has, from an early period in our history, been the practice, in the State of Massachusetts, to set apart a season, in the Spring of the Year, for the performance of this duty, I do hereby, with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint **THURSDAY, THE FIFTH DAY OF APRIL NEXT**, to be observed throughout the Commonwealth, as a day of **PUBLIC HUMILIATION, FASTING, AND PRAYER.**

And the People of every denomination are earnestly called upon to assemble, in their usual places of worship on that day, and to unite with one heart and one voice in appropriate religious exercises; to humble themselves under the conviction of their unworthiness of that goodness, which has been providentially displayed in every period of our history; to ask forgiveness of our sins, as individuals and a

nation, through Jesus Christ; and to supplicate the continuance of that mercy on which we depend, for all that makes our present lives a blessing, and for the hope of a glorious immortality beyond the grave.

More especially at the commencement of the active season of the year, let us pray for a divine blessing on all our undertakings; let us acknowledge the divine hand in the judgments which are abroad, humbly trusting in a kind Providence for the removal of the evils, under which many portions of the community are suffering, and for the restoration of our accustomed prosperity, in the pursuit of the various branches of honest industry.

And the good People of the Commonwealth are invited to imitate the example of our forefathers in a proper observance of the day, and to abstain from their usual occupations and amusements, that it may be a day redeemed from the cares and vanities of life, and consecrated, in public and in private, to meditation, penitence, and prayer.

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

EDWARD EVERETT.

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

JOHN P. BIGELOW, Secretary of the State.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!