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Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

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BY HIS EXCELLENCY

**LEVI LINCOLN,**

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

**A PROCLAMATION**

**FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC FASTING, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER.**

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With the advice and consent of the Executive Council, I appoint **THURSDAY, THE SEVENTH OF APRIL NEXT**, to be observed as a Day of **FASTING and PRAYER**, throughout this Commonwealth.—And I invite the People of every Religious Denomination, publicly and unitedly, to consecrate the occasion to the homage and worship of Almighty God, and by penitence for Sin, and supplication for Mercy, through faith in the mission and ministry of their Blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ, to seek the Divine Forgiveness and Favor.

May We, on this day, give to the past a faithful review, and to our obligations and duties, in the future, serious meditation. Instructed in our individual responsibilities and immortal destiny, may we, by faithful self examination, be made sensible of our defects and transgressions, and by the solemn offices of humble and contrite acknowledgement in which we engage, be brought to personal repentance and amendment. May God grant, that this shall be a day of **HUMILIATION**, also, for the sins of our Land.—That we may lament the vices and crimes which reproach the Community:—That all measures of public wrong, injustice, and oppression, may be arrested; the unhallowed passions, and lawless ambition of men, may be rebuked; the strife of selfishness and

party violence may cease; and the pure influences of knowledge and virtue, the love of order, of civil and religious liberty, and of country, may universally prevail.

And, more especially impressed, at the opening season of the year, with a sense of dependence upon the bounties of Divine Providence, may our prayer to God be, that he would bless the Seed time, and make fruitful the Harvest, and preserve the Health of the People.—That He, who rules the Nations, would protect and prosper our beloved Country in all its important interests and relations;—that the Councils and Administration of the General and State Governments may be directed by wisdom and patriotism;—that our Union may be inviolable; the equal Rights and Privileges of the Citizens respected; and the Institutions which have preserved us a Free, and made us a Happy People, may continue to be our enjoyment, and the unimpaired inheritance of Posterity.

And may our sympathies for the Oppressed of all Nations mingle with our devotions, and ascend in aspirations to the Throne of Grace for the deliverance of the Enslaved, and the diffusion of the blessings of civil and religious liberty, order, and good government among every People.

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

**LEVI LINCOLN.**

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

**EDWARD D. BANGS, Secretary.**

**God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**