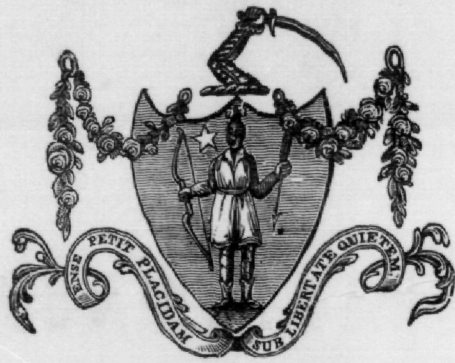


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Commonwealth of

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1840

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Massachusetts.

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BY HIS EXCELLENCY

**MARCUS MORTON,**

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS:

**A P P R O C L A M A T I O N**

FOR A DAY OF

**PUBLIC HUMILIATION, FASTING AND PRAYER.**

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THE REVOLVING year has once more brought the period, when the Commonwealth has ever been wont to make a solemn public acknowledgment of its dependence on the providence of God. The seasons, as they return, demonstrate His benevolence and His power. The eye perceives, with the light of day, the proofs of His existence. In Him our fathers put their trust, and He hid them, in the secret of His presence, from the pride of man. From His guardian care, came the just counsels and the good works, which, by His favor, have secured to us an inheritance of freedom. But, above all, He has given to man, the clearest proofs of His love and the fulness of His blessing, by the glorious revelation of Himself, through Jesus Christ, His Son, our blessed Savior:

And, whereas every beneficent institution which we enjoy, is not the fruit of the unaided wisdom of man, but the unmerited gift of our Almighty and merciful Father: and, whereas no Nation has ever forgotten God, without, at the same time, forfeiting its freedom, and all that was most valuable in its national character:—I have, therefore, thought proper to appoint, and do, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, hereby appoint **THURSDAY, THE SECOND DAY OF APRIL NEXT**, to be observed as a day of **PUBLIC HUMILIATION, FASTING AND PRAYER**; and I do invite the whole people of this Commonwealth, on that day to assemble in their usual places of public worship, and collectively and individually to reflect, with humble contrition, on the imperfection of their services; to acknowledge, with devout

gratitude, the never-ending mercies of our Heavenly Father; and to deplore at his footstool our own unworthiness and sinfulness. And I do further exhort them to pray that, by the aid of Divine Grace, continual progress may be made in intelligence and piety, and this people be indeed a people whose God is the Lord; that Divine Wisdom would gloriously inspire such counsels as may advance the cause of knowledge and righteousness, of meekness and charity, and fill this Commonwealth with His truth; that He would hasten the time when the principles of justice shall pervade the legislation of the world; when oppression shall cease, and the rumors of war be heard no more; that He would, in due time, give a plentiful harvest to the sower, and prosper the various labors of the husbandman, in the field and in the fold; that He would graciously protect the mariner amidst the dangers of the sea, and in the time of storms would show mercy to the shipwrecked; that He would chasten the eager passions which would make us haste to grow rich, and would diffuse among us the love of contented and useful employment; that He never would suffer peaceful labor to go without its reward, or honest industry to need the comforts of life; and that He would mercifully bestow upon us all, such temporal prosperity and happiness, as He, in His wisdom, may deem meet for us, and at last, a share in the blessings of that everlasting inheritance wherein dwelleth righteousness and joy, purity and love.

And the people of the Commonwealth are requested to abstain from all secular concerns inconsistent with the due observance of the day.

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

**MARCUS MORTON.**

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.**