

By His Excellency

WILLIAM SHIRLEY, Esq;

Captain-General and Governour in Chief, in and over His Majesty's Province
of the *Massachusetts-Bay* in *New England*.

A PROCLAMATION for a publick FAST.



UPON Consideration of the usual Occasions of the Spring and Summer ensuing; as also of the present Conjunction of our publick Affairs, upon the Success of which under GOD the future and lasting Prosperity of this and the neighbouring Provinces does greatly depend;

I have thought fit, with the Advice of His Majesty's Council, to appoint Thursday the Twenty-third Day of *March* Instant, to be observed as a Day of publick Fasting and Prayer throughout this Province: hereby calling upon Ministers and People religiously to attend the same, by humble and penitent Confession of our Sins, which have incensed the righteous Anger of Almighty GOD against us, manifested in the publick Calamities inflicted upon us; and earnestly to implore the Divine Mercy for the pardon of our many heinous Offences; and for conferring upon us all necessary Blessings; particularly, For the Health and long Life of our Sovereign Lord the KING, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of *Wales*, the Duke, and the rest of the Royal Family; and for defeating all Attempts against the Protestant Succession in that illustrious House; For Direction and Success on His Majesty's Counsels and Administrations, and for the Prosperity of the Kingdoms and Dominions under his happy Government; For the gracious Influences of Divine Providence on the PEACE lately restored to the Nations, that so the Events thereof may be governed for the Safety and Advantage of the Protestant Cause, and the particular Benefit of the British Dominions; That it would please GOD to bless the Government of this Province, and direct and prosper the Administrations thereof for the publick Good; and particularly, that our important Affairs now depending in the Court of GREAT-BRITAIN may be so conducted and succeeded as to be a Means to establish Justice in our general Dealings, as also Frugality, Diligence, and other Virtues, which may render us a happy People; That it would please GOD to grant us suitable Seasons for the Fruits of the Earth, and in his due Time a plentiful Harvest; That our Merchandize and Fishery may be protected from the Ravages of Pirates, and all other Disasters; That he would continue Health among us, and prevent the spreading of any mortal or contagious Sickness, That he would return the Remainder of our Captives; That he would prolong our Religious and Civil Privileges; And above all, That he would revive the Power and Practice of Godliness among the Christian Nations; And that the spiritual Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST may be greatly enlarged, and the whole Earth be filled with his Glory. And all servile Labour and Recreations are forbidden on the said Day.

Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, the Seventh Day of March 1748. In the Twenty-second Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Second, by the Grace of GOD of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c.

*By Order of his Excellency the Governour,
with the Advice of the Council,
J. WILLARD, Secr.*

W. Shirley.

GOD Save the KING.