

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 general *F A S T*.



FORASMUCH as this Government has with great Expence and Labour raised and fitted out a large Body of Troops, and equipped a considerable Naval Force for an Expedition against the French at *Cape-Breton*, which Forces are now, thro' the Favour of Divine Providence, embarked, and have taken their Departure from this Place; And forasmuch as all our Hopes of Success in this important Enterprize ought to be placed in the gracious Presence of Almighty GOD, to give Wisdom and Conduct to our Officers, and Resolution and Courage both to Officers and Soldiers, to preserve our Forces from Sicknes and other Disasters, and to govern all Accidents and Occurrences so as to render them favourable to our Designs; And as it is our indispensable Duty by Prayer and Supplication with penitent Confession of our Sins earnestly to implore the gracious Interpolation of divine Providence, that it would please GOD to be on our Side and fight our Battles, and grant us Success and Victory;

I have therefore thought fit with the Advice of His Majesty's Council, to appoint Thursday the Fourth Day of April next, to be observed throughout this Province as a Day of Fasting and Prayer, hereby calling upon Ministers and People, as well in their private Devotions, as in their publick Assemblies, with a truly humble and contrite Spirit to confess and bewail the many and great Offences of this People, whereof GOD may be justly provoked to blast all our Designs in this Enterprize, and bring upon us the most heavy and wasting Calamities; and to cry mightily to him, that he would in his abundant Mercy through CHRIST, forgive all our Trespases and make us a religious and reformed People, and thereby prepare us for all temporal Prosperity: And more especially, that they do under a deep Sense of the universal Providence of Almighty GOD, whereby he governs all Causes and Events according to his own wise and sovereign Pleasure, with humble and importunate Prayers beseech him to keep Sin, the accursed Thing that provokes his just Indignation, out of the Camp and Fleet; and that he would graciously order all the Circumstances of this Enterprize in Mercy to this people; and that he would prosper and succeed it for the future Safety and Prosperity of This and the other British Provinces and Colonies, for His is the Power, the Glory, and the Victory. And after all, humbly & dutifully to submit this great Affair to his wise and sovereign Determination, that so in all Respects this may be such a Fast as GOD has required, and a Day of Atonement and not of further Provocation; And that it would also please GOD to give Success to the Arms of his Majesty and his Allies in the Operations of the ensuing Summer; And that Peace may be restored both in Europe and in America; And that the universal Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST, the Prince of Peace, may prevail in the World, and the whole Earth be fill with His Glory. And all servile Labour and Recreations are strictly forbidden on the said Day.

Given at the Council-Chamber in BOSTON, the *Twenty-fifth* Day of *March*, 1745. In the *Eighteenth* 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 His Excellency's Command, with
the Advice of the Council,
J. Willard, Secr.

W. Shirley.

GOD save the KING.