



1773 April 23

William Shirley
Secretary



By His Excellency

WILLIAM SHIRLEY, Esq;

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

A PROCLAMATION for a publick *FAST.*



UPON Consideration of the great Affairs now in Agitation both in *Europe* and *America*, on the Direction and Success of which the Honour and Safety of His Majesty's Government, and the Prosperity of his Subjects in all Parts of his Dominions, do, under GOD, so much depend; considering also the usual Occasions of the Spring and of the Summer ensuing, upon which it is our indispensable Duty to implore the Divine Blessing;

I have thought fit, With the Advice of his Majesty's Council, and at the Desire of the House of Representatives, to appoint Thursday the Twenty-ninth Day of *April* Instant, to be observed as a Day of publick Fasting and Prayer thro'out this Province; hereby calling upon Ministers and People to solemnize the same by penitent Confession of their own Sins, and lamenting the general Depravity of the People of this Land, whereby the righteous Anger of Almighty GOD is incensed against us, and manifested in various displeasing Judgments and awful Threatnings of further Calamities; and humbly and earnestly to supplicate the Divine Mercy for removing the Effects of his just Anger, and in the mean Time sanctifying his Providential Dispensations, both of Mercy and Judgment, for producing a general and sincere Repentance and Reformation; and also, that it would please GOD to prolong the important Life of our Sovereign Lord the KING, and graciously direct and succeed his Majesty's Counsels and Administrations, and the Counsels and Resolutions of Parliament, for the Safety and Defence of his Majesty's Dominions, and for the Recovering his just Rights and the Properties of his Subjects from the Invasions of their French Neighbours, and for preventing the further Effusion of Blood by restoring a settled Peace to the Nations; that it would please GOD to confer the best of Blessings upon their Royal Highnesses the Prince of *Wales*, the Princess Dowager of *Wales*, the Duke, and the rest of the Royal Family; that he would have a compassionate Regard to the present calamitous Condition of his Majesty's Provinces and Colonies in *America*, and deliver them from the cruel Ravages of a perfidious Enemy, and would graciously direct and prosper the Counsels and Enterprizes of the several *British* Governments for recovering their just Rights; particularly, that GOD would graciously guide and succeed the Consultations and Resolutions of this Government in all their important Affairs, and so order our military Preparations and Enterprizes as that they may have a happy Issue; that he would defend our Sea-Coasts and Inland frontiers from all hostile Attempts of our Enemies; that he would restore Liberty to our Captives, and in the mean Time effectually preserve them from all Seduction to a false Religion; that he would continue health, and prevent contagious and mortal Fevers from entering and spreading among us; that he would favour the Husbandry of this Land, so that the Earth may yield it's Increase, and afford Food sufficient for Man and Beast; and more especially, that it would please a merciful GOD to awaken and duly affect a guilty and stupid World by the awful Dispensations of his Providence in the late Earthquakes, Inundations, and other remarkable Instances of his righteous Severity; and wisely over-rule them for the Propagation of the holy Religion of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST; and that the whole Earth may be filled with his Glory: And all servile Labour and Recreations are forbidden on said Day.

Given at the Council-Chamber in Boston, the ninth Day of April, 1776, in the Twenty-ninth 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, Sec^y.

W. Shirley.

GOD Save the KING.