

# CALEB STRONG,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

## A PROCLAMATION,

### For a Day of Public Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer.

IN every circumstance, it becomes us to acknowledge our dependence on the Supreme Being for the blessings we need, and to implore His guidance and protection. Especially in times of public calamity and danger, it is our duty, as a people, with the deepest penitence, to confess our sins before God, to deprecate the continuance of his anger, and look to Him as our refuge in trouble and our portion to supply our wants; and with united petitions to seek His mercy to remove our calamities, and His grace to reform our lives and purify our hearts:

THEREFORE, with the advice and consent of the Council, I appoint THURSDAY, the Sixth day of April next, to be observed in this State as a day of Public Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer. And the people are requested to assemble on that day, in their respective places of Public Worship, that we may join in humble supplications to that Infinite Being, upon whom the whole family in Heaven and on Earth depend, and whose mercy endures forever, and worship Him with reverence and affection suited to His power and goodness, and make Him our hope and confidence amidst the dangers with which we are surrounded; and beseech Him, through the merits of the Saviour, that He would forgive our iniquities, and turn away His anger from us, and think upon us for good according to His former kindness, and the favor which He showed to our fathers:

That He would incline the President and Congress to such measures as shall tend to restore Peace and Prosperity to the United States: That the Governments of the several States may endeavor faithfully to guard the rights of the people, and promote their safety and tranquility; and that the privileges by which we have been hitherto distinguished, may be still continued to us, and transmitted inviolate to our children:

That He would succeed the means of instruction, and prosper our civil, religious, literary and charitable institutions; and, that even in the tumult of War, we may cultivate a mild and pacific temper, and have

that meekness and gentleness of spirit which peculiarly characterised the Author of our Religion: That He would never withdraw His favor from the people of this State, nor suffer them to be drawn away with the workers of iniquity; and that, from age to age, instead of the fathers may be the children, who shall be accounted to Him for a generation:

That, in the course of this year, He would give us rain in due season, and cause the land to yield her increase, and the trees to yield their fruit: That He would save us from contagious and wasting sickness; and defend the inhabitants on our sea-coast from the ravages and alarms of War: That He would soon restore and establish our Commerce and Fisheries, as in former times, and prosper our Manufactures, and smile upon us in all the labour of our hands: That He would satisfy us early with His mercy, and make us glad according to the days wherein we have been afflicted, and the years in which we have seen evil: And that He would bestow upon us all that quietness, prosperity and plenty which His infinite wisdom sees will not be hurtful to us:

That, in every nation, those who rule over men may be just; that they may vindicate the oppressed, and restrain and punish the oppressor: That He would put an end to the violence and confusion which prevail in the world; and that truth and righteousness may spread over the earth, to subdue the savage passions of men, and promote universal charity and peace: That He would arise and have mercy upon Zion; that the set time to favor her may come; and to them who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, the sun of righteousness may rise with healing in his wings, and the light of the Gospel be diffused among all the nations and families of mankind.

And the people are requested to abstain from unnecessary labor and recreation on said day.

*Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this Tenth Day of February, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifteen, and in the Thirty-Ninth of the Independence of the United States of America.*

## CALEB STRONG.

By His Excellency's Command,  
with the advice and consent of the Council. }

ALDEN BRADFORD, *Secretary.*

### God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!