

Commonwealth of

Massachusetts.



By His Excellency

Caleb Strong, Esq.

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

A PROCLAMATION,

For a Day of Public Fasting and Prayer.

AS we are now approaching the season, in which, according to the primitive usage in this State, we have been accustomed to set apart a day for the purpose of confessing our disobedience and ingratitude to our Almighty Benefactor; of intreating His pardon and the assistance of His Holy Spirit, of imploring His blessing upon us in the course of the ensuing year. That He would grant us public and private prosperity, and supply our wants with a competent provision of the necessaries and comforts of life; and that He would preserve us from troubles or give us patience under them, and advantage from them.

I do therefore, with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint THURSDAY, the Ninth day of April next, to be observed in this State, as a day of PUBLIC FASTING and PRAYER; and the religious Societies of every denomination, are requested to meet together in their respective places of worship on that day, that with humility and repentance we may confess our numerous and aggravated transgressions; and refer ourselves and all our concerns to the care of that merciful and gracious Being, who is long suffering and abundant in goodness and truth, and who was the guide and defence of our forefathers, and has often delivered us when we have been in danger; and beseech Him, that in our solemn worship, He would teach and enable us to pray, and give us an answer of peace to what we are encouraged to ask, and that our supplications may be animated with the united ardour of devotion and patriotism.

That He would prosper the people of the United States, and perpetuate the benefits derived to them from their Constitution of Government; and

that the President and Congress may be directed to such measures, as shall most effectually promote our National security and happiness. That He would bless the inhabitants of this State, and choose us to be a peculiar people to Himself; that our Magistrates may be just men, and support as far as they are able, the authority of the Laws, and the influence of good morals and virtuous manners; and that all who are friends to the religion of Christ, may be united in the bonds of charity, and love one another as He has loved them.

That He would bless the springing of the earth, and cause it to yield its increase, that in due season the pastures may be clothed with flocks and the vallies covered with corn; and that we may long continue to cultivate the land without fear, and enjoy abundant and uninterrupted peace and tranquillity. That He would preserve us from contagious and wasting sickness; that He would protect our Commerce and fisheries, and prosper all the work of our hands; that the Instructors in our Colleges and Schools may be eminently qualified for their important offices, and our Youth be diligent and virtuous, and have proper sentiments of respect for those to whom their education is entrusted. That He would disappoint the devices of ambitious and unprincipled men, who have no sense of the calamities of others, and acknowledge no other rule of action but their own interest, and that all nations may be saved from the convulsions of anarchy, and the cruelties of despotism; that He would remove out of the way every thing that opposes the Redeemer's kingdom and interest, and that all the children of men may become holiness to the Lord, and the whole earth be filled with his glory. And the people of this State are requested to abstain from unnecessary labour and recreation on the said day.

Given at the Council Chamber in BOSTON, this Thirteenth day of February, in the year of our LORD, one thousand eight hundred and seven, and in the thirty-first year of the Independence of the United States of America.

CALEB STRONG.

By His Excellency's Command, with the Advice and Consent of the Council.

JONATHAN L. AUSTIN, Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!