



Commonwealth of **Massachusetts.**

By His Excellency

# Increase Sumner

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

## A PROCLAMATION,

For a DAY of SOLEMN

### FASTING, HUMILIATION & PRAYER.

**A** JUST sense of Dependence on ALMIGHTY GOD for Mercies, both of a temporal and spiritual nature, expressed by appointed days for Humiliation and Prayer, having hitherto marked the Character of the inhabitants of MASSACHUSETTS, and which, it is devoutly to be wished, may ever distinguish with Honor, the Character of their Successors, by an imitation of a practice suggested to Man, from a consideration of his imperfect, dependent condition. This ancient usage, invites the Inhabitants of this Commonwealth to follow an Example, which, while it prepares the Human Heart for the Grateful reception of the Divine Favors, is productive of the greatest benefit to Society in a Moral, Civil, and Religious View.—Under these impressions,

**I** have thought fit, by and with the advice of the Council, to appoint THURSDAY, THE FOURTH OF APRIL NEXT, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth, as a Day of FASTING, HUMILIATION and PRAYER.—Calling on Ministers and People of every Denomination, to assemble on that Day, in their respective places of Public Worship, and with United Hearts, penitently to confess their Sins before ALMIGHTY GOD, and implore Forgiveness through the GREAT MEDIATOR, and humbly to entreat the Blessing of GOD upon the concerns of the ensuing Year.—In particular, that He would be pleased to guide and prosper the administration of Civil Government within this Commonwealth.—That He would afford his Guidance, and blessing to the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES, and enable him to discharge with fidelity and firmness the arduous duties of his important station, and that the Councils and Determinations of our National Government, under the direction of Heaven, may be founded in Wisdom and Justice, and receive the approbation and zealous support of our Citizens; so that their Happiness may thereby be promoted.—That He would be pleased to strengthen the Union of these States, and not suffer any evil design, that may be formed against them, to prosper.—That He would inspire those in Civil Authority, with a just sense of the importance of the Trust committed to their Care, and enable them to discharge it with fidelity.—That the People may continue to be impressed with a Public Spirit, and true love of their Country; properly appreciating the Blessings of Civil and Religious Liberty, by which they are distinguished as a Nation: And that Truth, Piety and Righteousness, which exalt a Nation, may universally prevail.—That He would be graciously pleased to Bless the Labours of the Industrious Husbandman, and so to order the Seasons, as that the Year may be crowned with a Plentiful Harvest.—That He would guide and direct our University and other Seminaries of Learning within this Commonwealth, so that the rising Generation may be impressed with the principles of true Religion and Virtue, and be properly instructed in every Branch of useful Learning.—That He would afford us the means of protecting our Commerce, Navigation and Fishery from unjustifiable interruptions, and give Success to all our lawful undertakings.—And I do further recommend, that earnest and fervent supplications be made to the Fountain of Mercies, that He would be graciously pleased to continue Health in our Habitations; and that of His Abundant Mercy, He would prevent the return of that alarming and Mortal Disease, which lately has been permitted to visit our Capital, and other Places, by which so many of our Inhabitants were suddenly cut off in the midst of Life and Usefulness.—And that by His gracious Influence, He would put a stop to the progress of such licentious principles and opinions as have a tendency to promote profanity and irreligion, degrade the character of Man, and deprive him of his hopes of felicity in a future and better Life: And that through His abundant Goodness we may be preserved from every desolating Judgment.—That by His gracious Influence the United States of America may be protected from the insidious designs of their Enemies, as well as from open hostility.—And that the Nations of the Earth may be led to respect the rights of each other, and that on this basis an honourable and permanent Peace may be established.

**And I do earnestly recommend that all servile Labour and Recreation may be suspended on the said Day.**

*GIVEN at the Council Chamber in Boston, this twenty-eighth day of February, in the Year of our LORD, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, and in the twenty-third Year of the Independence of the United States of America.*

## INCREASE SUMNER.

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

JOHN AVERY, Secretary.

**God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!**