

Apr. 4/72

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

WILLIAM B. WASHBURN,

GOVERNOR:

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

FASTING AND PRAYER.

The custom of setting apart one day annually for observance by Prayer and Fasting, though entirely neglected by some, and receiving but formal recognition from others, is of priceless value to the great majority of the Christian people of Massachusetts. Thinking it proper that we should adhere to the custom transmitted from the fathers, I do hereby designate as the period to be consecrated to this service of public prayer,

THURSDAY, THE FOURTH DAY OF APRIL NEXT.

And I earnestly request the people of the Commonwealth to assemble on that day in their several places of worship, and implore Him who holdeth our lives in His hand, to forgive us our manifold sins, quicken us in the sense of human weakness and dependence, strengthen us in all upright purposes and noble aspirations, and enable us to perform our duties in such a manner that we may meet His merciful approbation. Especially let us plead with Him who is the bountiful Giver, —

To shield us from danger and disaster;

To continue us in health, and prosper our varied industries;

To open our hearts in practical sympathy for the needy, and others in distress;

To enlarge and sanctify our endeavors for advancement in education and morality;

To preserve to us the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and the precious heritage of good government;

To nurture in us a more earnest regard for virtue, temperance, and the things which make for honorable peace;

To keep us in that spirit of willing obedience to law and authority which is essential to the wise development and permanent well-being of every community;

And help us to exemplify the Golden Rule of Christ in all our words and actions, so that the homes and neighborhoods in which we dwell may be brighter and happier because of our lives.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this Seventh day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two, and of the independence of the United States of America the ninety-sixth.

WILLIAM B. WASHBURN.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,
BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE COUNCIL, }

OLIVER WARNER, *Secretary.*

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.