



Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

BY THE GOVERNOR,
A PROCLAMATION,
FOR A DAY OF
Public Thanksgiving.

WHEREAS it has pleased **GOD** the Father of all Mercies, to bestow upon us innumerable unmerited Favours in the course of the year past; it highly becomes us duly to recollect His Goodness, and in a Public and Solemn manner to express the grateful feelings of our Hearts.

I have therefore thought fit, with the advice and consent of the Council, to appoint *THURSDAY the fifteenth day of December next*, to be observed as a Day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING and PRAISE to our DIVINE BENEFACTOR throughout this Commonwealth—Calling upon Ministers of the Gospel with their respective Congregations, and the whole body of the People, Religiously to observe the said Day by celebrating the Praises of that all-gracious Being, of whose Bounties we have experienced so large a share.

He hath prevented Epidemical Diseases from spreading, and afforded us a general state of Health.

He hath regarded our Pastures and Fields with the Eye of the most indulgent Parent, and rewarded the Industry of our Husbandmen with a plentiful Harvest.

Notwithstanding unreasonable obstructions to our Trade on the seas, it has generally been prosperous and our Fisheries successful.

Our civil Constitutions of Government, formed by ourselves, and administered by Men of our own *free Election*, are by His Grace continued to us.

And we still enjoy the inestimable Blessings of the Gospel, and right of Worshipping **GOD** according to His own Institutions and the honest dictates of our Consciences.

And, together with our Thanksgiving, earnest Supplication to **GOD** is hereby recommended, for the forgiveness of our Sins which have rendered us unworthy of the least of His Mercies; and that by the sanctifying Influence of His Spirit, our hearts and manners may be corrected, and we become a reformed and happy People—That He would direct and prosper the Administration of the Government of the United States, and of this and the other States in the Union—That He would still afford His Blessings on our Trade, Agriculture, Fisheries and all the Labours of our hands—That He would Smile upon our University, and all Seminaries of Learning—That Tyranny and Usurpation may every where come to an end—That the Nations who are contending for true Liberty may still be succeeded by his Almighty aid—That every Nation and Society of Men may be inspired with the knowledge and feeling of their natural and just Rights, and enabled to form such systems of Civil Government as shall be fully adapted to promote and establish their Social security and Happiness—And finally, that in the course of **GOD's** Holy Providence, the great Family of Mankind may bow to the Sceptre of the Prince of Peace, so that mutual Friendship and Harmony may universally prevail.

And I do recommend to the People of this Commonwealth to abstain from all such Labours and Recreations as may not be consistent with the Solemnity of the said Day.

Given at the Council-Chamber, in Boston, this sixth day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and Ninety-six, and in the twenty-first Year of the Independence of the United States of America.

SAMUEL ADAMS.

Attest, JOHN AVERY, *Secretary.*

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.