

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN A. ANDREW,

GOVERNOR:

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, The President of the United States of America did by his Proclamation, Dated at Washington, on the fifteenth day of July current, "set apart THURSDAY, the sixth day of August next to be observed as a day for National Thanksgiving, Praise and Prayer," in recognition of the wonderful things done by the Divine Majesty in behalf of this Nation:

I do therefore direct and request that the aforesaid Proclamation of the Chief Executive Magistrate of the United States be published and promulgated to the people of Massachusetts in the same manner in which the Proclamation of the Governor of Massachusetts is accustomed to be promulgated, ordaining the Annual Thanksgiving observed in this Commonwealth.

I earnestly trust not only that in all our Churches and Congregations of religious worship the day may be observed by becoming acts of public thanksgiving, but that every heart may find an altar on which to lay its offering of humble and grateful praise.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this twenty-seventh day of July, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and the eighty-eighth of the Independence of the United States.

JOHN A. ANDREW.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR:

OLIVER WARNER, *Secretary.*

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

A PROCLAMATION

For a Day of Thanksgiving, Praise, and Prayer.

It has pleased Almighty God to hearken to supplications and prayers of an afflicted people, and to vouchsafe to the Army and Navy of the United States on the land and on the sea, victories so signal and so effective as to furnish reasonable grounds for augmented confidence, that the Union of these States will be maintained, their constitution preserved, and peace and prosperity permanently established; but these victories have been accorded not without sacrifice of life, limb, health, and liberty, incurred by brave, patriotic and loyal citizens. Domestic affliction in every part of the country follows in the train of these fearful bereavements.

It is meet and right to recognize and confess the presence of the Almighty Father and the power of His hand equally in these triumphs and these sorrows.

Now, therefore, be it known, that I do set apart, THURSDAY, THE SIXTH DAY OF AUGUST NEXT, to be observed as a day for National Thanksgiving, Praise and Prayer; and I invite the people of the United States to assemble on that occasion in their customary places of worship, and in the forms approved by their own conscience, render the homage due to the Divine Majesty for the wonderful things he has done in the Nation's behalf, and invoke the influence of His holy spirit to subdue the anger, which has produced and so long sustained a needless rebellion; to change the hearts of the insurgents, to guide the counsels of the government with wisdom adequate to so great a national emergency, and to visit with tender care and consolation throughout the length and breadth of our land all those who through the vicissitudes of marches, voyages, battles, and sieges have been brought to suffer in mind, body, or estate; and finally, to lead the whole Nation, through paths of repentance and submission to the Divine will, back to the perfect enjoyment of Union and fraternal peace.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the City of Washington this fifteenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the eighty-eighth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*