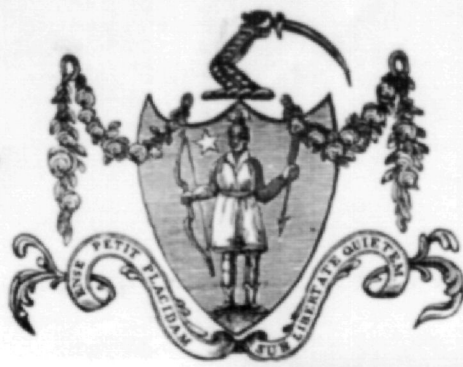


1862
Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN A. ANDREW,

GOVERNOR:

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

By and with the advice and consent of the Council, I do hereby appoint THURSDAY, the 27th day of November next, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise. And I do earnestly invite and request all the people of Massachusetts to set apart that day for the grateful and happy remembrance of the boundless mercies and loving kindness of Him, in whose name our fathers planted our Commonwealth, and to whose service they consecrated their lives and devoted their posterity.

"The Lord hath established His Throne in the Heavens; and His Kingdom ruleth over all." He is the "Sovereign Commander of all the world, in whose hand is power and might, which none is able to withstand;" and to Him only belong ascriptions of glory, who is "the only giver of Victory." Let our hearts therefore ascend,—higher than all the interests that entangle, all the doubts that bewilder, the passions that ensnare, and the prejudices that obscure,—consenting to be led, illumined and governed by His infinite intelligence and love.

In the meditations of the House of Praise, let us take comfort and be thankful for the numberless manifestations of heroic and manly virtue which, amid the distractions of war, in the duties of the camp, and in the perils of battle, have illustrated the character of the sons of Massachusetts,—and for the serene and beautiful devotion with which her daughters have given the dearest offerings of their hearts to the support of their country, and for the defence of humanity.

Let us not forget the bountiful bestowments of the year, filling the granaries of the husbandman, and rewarding the toil of the laborer, the enterprise, thrift and industry of all our people. No pestilence hath lurked in the darkness of night, nor assailed us in the light of day. Calamity hath not overwhelmed us, nor hath any enemy destroyed.

Rising to the height of our great occasion, reinforced by courage, conviction and faith, it has been the privilege of our country to perceive, in the workings of Providence, the opening ways of a sublime duty. And to Him who hath never deserted the faithful, unto Him "who gathereth together the outcasts of Israel, who healeth the broken in heart," we owe a new song of Thanksgiving. "He sheweth His word unto Jacob, His statutes and His judgments unto Israel. He hath not dealt so with any nation."

Putting aside all fear of man, which bringeth a snare, may this people put on the strength which is the Divine promise and gift to the faithful and obedient: "let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand." Not with malice and wickedness, but with sincerity and truth, let us keep this feast; and while we "eat the fat and drink the sweet, forget not to send a portion to him for whom nothing is prepared." Let us remember on that day the claims of all who are poor or desolate or oppressed, and pledge the devotion of our lives to the rescue of our country from the evils of rebellion, oppression and wrong,—and may we all so order our conduct hereafter, that we may neither be ashamed to live, nor afraid to die.

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

JOHN A. ANDREW.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,
WITH THE ADVICE OF THE COUNCIL.

OLIVER WARNER, *Secretary.*

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.