

1861

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



BY HIS EXCELLENCY

NATHANIEL P. BANKS,

GOVERNOR.

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

By advice and consent of the Council, I have appointed, and do hereby appoint, Thursday, the twenty-ninth day of November next, a Day of Thanksgiving: and I invite the People of the Commonwealth to observe this day, already set apart by the principal States of the Union for the same Christian purpose, after the high spirit and solemn manner of our fathers, by Public Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God, for the innumerable blessings that surround and support us:

Especially for the inestimable privileges of Republican Institutions of Government, under which the People suffer chiefly from their own errors, and are permitted opportunities to correct them: in which tradition does not entail upon the future the wrongs of the past, and authority has no power to suppress the demands of public justice:

For the favored position which separates our beloved country from the political complications that torture other nations, and secures to us well regulated Liberty and universal Peace:

For the preservation of the States united:

For the public health and prosperity:

For the rich harvests of the year:

For the privileges of general education:

For the capacity and hope of future improvement,

And the never-failing consolations of Christian faith.

Let us remember, in the very act of thanksgiving for our inappreciable privileges, the opportunities that are offered

For the relief of those in want:

The succor of the oppressed:

The consolation of the afflicted:

The comfort of the imprisoned:

The encouragement of such as are cast down,

And the recognition of all men of whatever caste, condition, or clime, as children of a common Father, and subjects of one universal and incomprehensible destiny.

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

NATHANIEL P. BANKS.

By His Excellency the Governor,
with advice and consent of the Council.

OLIVER WARNER, Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Rev. Seth Sweetser
Proctor
May