

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

James Bowdoin, Esq.

GOVERNOUR of the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS.

A Proclamation

FOR A GENERAL THANKSGIVING.

AS there is a moral Fitness in expressing our Gratitude to our Benefactors, and as it increases in Proportion to the Benefits conferred, we are under the highest Obligation, both as a People, and as Individuals, to express, to the SUPREME AUTHOR of all GOOD, our fervent, and most grateful Acknowledgments, for the numberless unmerited Blessings his Providence has bestowed upon us; and in particular for those of the past Year: for which it is our Duty, in a social Manner, to render HIM our most elevated PRAISES:

I HAVE therefore thought fit, by and with the Advice of the Council, to appoint, and do hereby appoint, THURSDAY, THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF DECEMBER next, to be observed as a DAY OF PUBLICK AND GENERAL THANKSGIVING, throughout this Commonwealth: Recommending to Ministers and People of every Denomination, to assemble on that Day, in their several Places of religious Worship, and to unite in celebrating the Praises of ALMIGHTY GOD, for the innumerable Instances of HIS Goodness to us: Particularly that, in the Course of the past Year, HE has been pleased to afford so remarkable a Degree of Health to the People of this Commonwealth; to order the Seasons so favourably, that the LABOUR of the HUSBANDMAN has been blessed with a PLENTY of the PRODUCE of the EARTH; to increase our FISHERIES; to enlarge our MANUFACTURES; and above all, that it has pleased HIM to continue to us the LIGHT of the blessed GOSPEL, and the full ENJOYMENT of our RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

AND I FURTHER RECOMMEND, to Ministers and People, to accompany their THANKSGIVINGS with devout and fervent Prayers to the great GOVERNOUR of the WORLD, that, notwithstanding our Ingratitude and multiplied Transgressions, HE would continue HIS gracious Providence over us; and preserve our FRONTIERS, and all Parts of the UNITED STATES, from the IncurSIONS and Depredations of SAVAGE ENEMIES; that HE would prosper our PUBLIC COUNCILS, and inspire both RULERS and PEOPLE with a disinterested LOVE to their COUNTRY; that HE would endue the PEOPLE with a true Sense of the Value, Extent and Importance of their Privileges, both civil and religious; and with a Sense of their Obligations to support Government and good Order, without which the Existence of those Privileges must be endangered; and in fine, that PEACE and HAPPINESS TRUTH and JUSTICE, BENEVOLENCE and undefiled RELIGION, may universally prevail.

AND I DO RECOMMEND a Suspension of all unnecessary Labour and Recreation, unsuitable to the religious Solemnity of the Day.

GIVEN at the COUNCIL-CHAMBER, in BOSTON, the THIRD Day of November, in the Year of our LORD, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-Six, and in the ELEVENTH Year of the INDEPENDENCE of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA.

JAMES BOWDOIN.

By His Excellency's Command,
With the Advice and Consent of the Council.

JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH!