

1785



Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

By His EXCELLENCY

James Bowdoin, Esq.

GOVERNOUR of the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS.

A Proclamation, For a Day of THANKSGIVING.

AS it hath pleased Almighty GOD, the Father of Mercies, to bestow many and great Favours on the People of this Commonwealth, in the Course of the Year past, it highly becomes us, at this Season, agreeably to the Practice of our wise and pious Ancestors, to render to Him the just Tribute of our Praise :

I HAVE therefore thought fit, by and with the Advice of the Council, to appoint, and do accordingly appoint, *THURSDAY*, the FIFTEENTH DAY of *DECEMBER* next, to be set apart and observed, as a Day of **PUBLICK THANKSGIVING** : Calling upon Ministers, and People of every religious Denomination, to assemble on that Day, in their respective Places of publick Worship, devoutly to express their Gratitude to our great **BENEFACTOR**, for his innumerable Benefits : More especially, for ordering the Seasons of the Year so favourably, that the Labour of the Husbandman hath been crowned with an abundant Increase of the Fruits of the Earth ;--for restoring, in a good Measure, our Fishery, and thereby granting us so liberal a Portion of the rich Treasure of the Sea ;---for preserving us from infectious Sickness, and other grievous Calamities ; and above all, for continuing to us that inestimable Blessing, the Gospel of his Son, together with the full Enjoyment of religious, as well as civil, and personal, Rights and Liberties. And I do further call upon Ministers and People, at the same Time, penitently to confess those manifold Sins, which have rendered us altogether unworthy to receive, and incapable duly to improve, the Bounties of his Providence ; and to implore his Forgiveness, through the Merits of **JESUS CHRIST** our SAVIOUR : Humbly beseeching Him, that the **UNION** of the **CONFEDERATED STATES** of AMERICA may be confirmed, and their Councils directed and prospered ;---that the **ADMINISTRATION** of **GOVERNMENT** within this **COMMONWEALTH** may ever be guided to such Measures, as shall be adapted to the common Safety and Happiness ;---that the Embarrassments, under which our Trade labours, may be removed ; and that it may be carried on, in such a Way, as to promote the general Good ;---that **SCHOOLS** and **SEMINARIES** of **LEARNING**, and the Means of **RELIGION**, may be succeeded, so that we may be universally animated, by the Principles of **PIETY** and **JUSTICE**, a true Zeal for the Welfare of our Country, and Benevolence to Mankind :---And finally, that **CHRISTIANITY**, in its genuine Spirit, may be continually advancing, until it shall overspread the Earth.

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 SEVENTH DAY of NOVEMBER, in the Year of Our LORD, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-five, and in the TENTH 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.

G O D S A V E T H E C O M M O N W E A L T H !