

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN BROOKS,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

A PROCLAMATION,

FOR A DAY OF

Public Thanksgiving and Praise.

THE unceasing goodness of the Supreme Disposer of events, while it affords strong ground of hope for a continuance of His providential kindness, demands of us, as rational and moral beings, renewed expressions of gratitude. I have, therefore, thought fit to appoint, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, I do hereby appoint THURSDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF DECEMBER NEXT, to be observed, agreeably to ancient usage, as a day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE, throughout this Commonwealth; that, with one mind, we may express our devout acknowledgments to Almighty God, for the great and innumerable mercies, with which He hath been pleased to crown the present year. And the people of all religious denominations are requested to assemble in their respective places of public worship on that day, thankfully and humbly to acknowledge the Divine Goodness, in granting to the inhabitants of this State, generally, the blessings of health and plenty; in continuing to them the enjoyment of peace, and of their civil and religious rights, of the means of education, and of moral and spiritual improvement.

And while thus uniting in the sacrifice of Thanksgiving, may we penitently confess our manifold transgressions, which render us so unwor-

thy of the many distinguishing blessings with which the Divine Bounty has favored us, imploring the pardon of all our sins through the merits and mediation of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST: That God will be pleased to take the United States under his holy protection: That He will preserve us in peace and good fellowship: That He will bless the President of the United States, guide the deliberations of the National and State Legislatures, and make us a virtuous and happy people: That He will look with special favor on the rising generation, on the means of education, on our University, our Colleges and Schools, on all our Churches and the Ministers of the Gospel; on the means of rendering vice odious, of enlightening the conscience, of invigorating the moral sense, and of giving practical efficacy to religious faith: That He will prosper the efforts now strenuously making, as well in other nations, as within the United States, to spread the knowledge of God and of His Son JESUS CHRIST, as revealed in the sacred Scriptures, among all the nations of the world, that the whole earth may be filled with the glory of God.

And the people are requested to abstain from all labor and recreation, inconsistent with the religious services of the day.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this Thirteenth Day of October, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the Forty Third.

JOHN BROOKS.

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

ALDEN BRADFORD, Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!