

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

**ALEXANDER H. BULLOCK,**

GOVERNOR :

# A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

## PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

By and with the advice and consent of the Council, I do hereby set apart **THURSDAY**, the 29th day of November next, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise.

By Divine favor the People of Massachusetts have enjoyed another year of peace, prosperity, and progress. In the return of seed-time and harvest; in the increase of the ground; in the profitable pursuit of commerce, manufactures, and every department of industry, — we have abundant reason to remember that every good gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of Lights.

The bestowments of our Heavenly Father have not been limited to earthly possessions. In the increase of their wealth He has inspired the People with a proper conception of its highest and noblest uses. Never before, since the State was established, have the hearts of its citizens been more generously disposed towards every good work of religion, education, and humanity; and our churches, colleges, schools, and all beneficent institutions, are transmitting the bounty of the present to enrich and ennoble the next generation. It hath also pleased God to excite all the Christian denominations in this State to spread in the benighted parts of the earth a knowledge of the Gospel of His Son, which our Constitution and Laws recognize as essential to virtue, happiness, and safety.

In national relations He has kept the mind of the People true and steadfast. In the work of restoring and reconstructing the Government of the Country, the inhabitants of this State have measured their duty by the precepts of their religion. With charity to all, and without a spirit of revenge even toward those who levied a war in which thousands of their own sons were slain, they have instructed their representatives and public servants, to welcome back every section and every people, upon the acknowledgment and enforcement of the equal rights of all men, without which there can be no enduring security. Having learned this from their fathers, they have been enabled thus far to stand for it with the firmness of religious conviction.

I accordingly recommend to the People of Massachusetts that, on the day appointed, they should assemble in their houses of public worship, to honor and praise the Lord:

That He has made the clouds to drop down the dew, and our land to yield her increase :

That He has kept away from our borders the pestilence which all so greatly feared :

That He has strengthened our Sion, by disposing and enabling them to keep strong and good the defences of religion, education, temperance, morality, and philanthropy :

That He has sustained their hearts in all the struggles for the rights of man, and has given them just and manly sensibilities towards the outcasts of Israel :

That He has been the gracious Benefactor of this Commonwealth from her earliest days, and has given her an influence for good in all times of danger and trial.

These things have come from the Lord our God, and call upon the People of the State for gratitude, praise, and thanksgiving.

“Happy art thou, O Israel; who is like unto thee, O people saved by the Lord, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency!”

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this twelfth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six, and the ninety-first of the Independence of the United States of America.

**ALEXANDER H. BULLOCK.**

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

OLIVER WARNER, *Secretary.*

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.