

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

WILLIAM CLAFLIN,

GOVERNOR:

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

In accordance with the custom of our New England fathers, and with the usage now becoming national, I invite the people of Massachusetts to consecrate THURSDAY, the Eighteenth day of November next, to acts of Thanksgiving, Prayer, and Praise; to assemble in their houses of worship, and lift up their hearts with fervent gratitude to Almighty God; and to thank Him for the blessings, both temporal and spiritual, bestowed on us in the year that is past. Let us praise him for continued peace; for abundant harvests; for unusual health; for prosperity in all material enterprises; for the continued advancement and increased usefulness of our benevolent and educational institutions; for the spread of those principles of morality and religion which exalt a State and constitute its true glory.

Let us thank Him for those influences which have led us to raise the fallen, encourage the weak, and shield the tempted; for the associations and endearments of home; and, when gathered around the domestic fireside, or around the social board, let us remember the less favored, and let each resolve to gladden some sad heart on that day, by kindly sympathy accompanied with substantial tokens, and thus realize that the true value of wealth is its power to relieve the needy: that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Let us recognize anew our obligations to Almighty God for his preserving care vouchsafed to us as a nation, whereby out of great peril and suffering He has brought us into the enjoyment of such freedom as has been given to no other people.

"Let the people praise thee, O God, let all the people praise thee!"

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

WILLIAM CLAFLIN.

By His Excellency the Governor,
WITH THE ADVICE OF THE COUNCIL,

OLIVER WARNER, *Secretary.*

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.