

State of Massachusetts-Bay.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N

For a DAY of public THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER.

AS It is the Duty of Individuals, who believe their Concerns to be under the supreme Direction of the greatest and best of Beings, to make due Acknowledgments thereof unto Him, both by Prayer and Praise; so it is the Duty of Societies of such Believers, and of Christians more especially, to unite in a public and solemn Manner, both in praying to the same sovereign Disposer of all Things, to give them from Evil, and to bestow on them such good Things as unerring Wisdom sees best and most conducive to their Happiness; and also to offer their Praises and Thanksgiving to Him for the Salvations and Blessings whereof they are joint Partakers. In praying such Acknowledgments to that GOD, whose Kingdom reacheth over all, hath been practised by religious Societies in all Ages, and in particular by the People of this Land: In Conformity to such laudable Examples, and from a deep and grateful Sense of the Favours conferred upon this degenerate People, amidst the Judgments of War, which are sent abroad in the Earth, that the People thereof may learn Righteousness:

WE Have thought fit, with the Advice of Council, and at the Desire of the House of Representatives to appoint, and hereby do appoint **THURSDAY** the Twelfth Day of **DECEMBER** next, to be kept as a Day of public **THANKSGIVING** and **PRAYER** throughout this State; calling upon Ministers and People of every Denomination, then to convene, and with grateful Devotion to offer solemn Praises to the all gracious Author of every Good; for the various invaluable Benefits conferred on, and continued to this State in particular, and to the united States of *America* in general; Especially, That whilst British Avarice on my Claims, and British Tyranny vigorously endeavours to wrest from us the true Exercise of those Rights, which Heaven alike bestow'd on all Mankind, and without which human Life is less a Favor than the Grave; has given these States a just Sense of their Worth, and of the Impossibility of resigning those Rights to Man without the Guilt of Rebellion against GOD, Treason to the present, and Treachery to all future Generations: That he has united these States in a resolute Vindication of those Rights, even to the last Extremity; has given them a general Council of Patriots wise to direct; raised up Generals faithful to execute, the Measures necessary for their Defence; and animated so many of the Sons of *America* to grasp the Sword, and with a manly Cheerfulness endure the Fatigues of War, in support of that Freedom which is the Birthright of all: Has led them by the Hand from Step to Step, 'till we have seen these States compelled thro' Oppression to assert their native Right to Freedom and Independence in an united Declaration which the impartial World must justify: Has preserved the Commander in Chief of our Forces, and so many of our Officers and Soldiers amidst so many and such imminent Dangers—Has mercifully restored Health to our Camps—Has enabled our Armies to make such a Stand, as has hitherto baffled the Efforts of our inveterate Foes, and, as yet, defeated their main Design; hath protected our Frontiers from the Sword of the Wilderness and our Sea Coasts from the Depredations of an hostile Fleet—And even from the Sea, where our visible Strength was least, has waded to our Shores most valuable Cargoes of Warlike and other Stores, necessary for our Defence and Support at the very Time when most needed—Has returned our Adventurers on that Element, generally enriched and victorious—And has detected very dangerous Conspiracies when at the Crisis of their Execution. That he hath compelled the Enemy, after having been for many Months in Possession of our Capital, precipitately to evacuate it—That he hath also freed the Capital from the contagious and mortal Dilemper with which it hath been visited; and that there hath been so great a Measure of Health enjoyed thro' the Land—That he hath caused the Earth to yield it's Increase so plentifully, that we are supplied with the Necessaries and Comforts of Life. And above all, that he hath continued to us the Enjoyment of the Gospel, and the religious Liberties and Privileges we were blessed with, notwithstanding our Multiprovement of them. And with these Thanksgivings we exhort all Ranks to mingle deep Humiliations under the Calamities we are yet suffering—and genuine Repentance for those Sins that have brought them upon us. And to add their fervent Prayers for the Continuance of the Mercies we enjoy, and the Gift of those we need: Especially, that all our public Councils, and the General Congress in particular, may be inspired with the Wisdom, Unanimity and Firmness necessary for their important Departments—That the Life and Health of our General, his Officers and Soldiers may be precious in GOD's Sight—That our Brethren every where may be spirited to take the Field, when called in so great a Cause—That all the Movements of our Armies may be ordered in divine Mercy,—That they may be victorious in every Engagement—That our Foes may be defeated in all their hostile Designs, and driven from our Land; and permitted no more, either by Bribery and Corruption to sap our civil and religious Rights, or by Fire and Sword to waste and destroy us—That Peace may be restored on a just and permanent Basis; and the Rights and Liberties of *America* secured to the latest Generations: That this People may be placed under the wisest and best Form of Government: That the Union of the *American* States may be established by a Consideration never to be dissolved—That the Spirit of GOD may be plentifully poured out, and an universal Reformation of Heart and Life may speedily ensue—That the Gospel may be propagated thro' all Nations—And that *America* may ever be peculiarly entitled to the Name of Emanuel's Land.

AND all servile Labor is forbidden on said Day.

G I V E N at the COUNCIL-CHAMBER in BOSTON, this Sixteenth Day of November, in the Year of our LORD; One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-Six.

JAMES BOWDOIN,
 JEREMIAH POWELL,
 ARTEMAS WARD,
 CALEB CUSHING,
 JOHN WINTHROP,
 THOMAS CUSHING,
 ELDAD TAYLOR,
 SAMUEL HOLTEN,
 JABEZ FISHER,
 MOSES GILL,
 WILLIAM PHILLIPS,
 BENJAMIN AUSTIN,
 HENRY GARDNER,
 DANIEL DAVIS,
 DAVID SEWALL,
 DANIEL HOPKINS,
 FRANCIS DANA.

By their Honor's Command,

JOHN AVERY, Jun. Dep. Sec'y.

GOD SAVE THE UNITED STATES OF *AMERICA!*