

Commonwealth of



1839  
Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

EDWARD EVERETT,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS:

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

WHEREAS, through the mercy of our Heavenly Father, we again behold the fulfilment of the promise, that while the earth remaineth seed-time and harvest shall not cease,—I do, with the advice and consent of the Council, and agreeably to established usage, appoint **THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF NOVEMBER NEXT**, to be observed throughout the State, as a day of **PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE** to the Gracious Being who has preserved our lives for another year, and crowned them with so many blessings.

Let our deepest gratitude be awakened, while we behold, in every direction, the fruits of the earth, mature at their appointed season, laid up in ample store, as the food of man. Let us reflect that the annual harvest is the result of the harmonious working of the great system of the material creation. When we consider that all the powers and properties of the natural elements, of the earth and the air, of the winds and the clouds, and the latent principles which govern their movements, of revolving planets, and of the warming and enlightening sun, must combine, in order to the ripening of a single grain of corn, let our thoughts arise from these second causes to the Great First Cause, on whom they depend, and who, from the opening heavens, sends down the daily food of the whole family of man, as in a great sheet knit at the four corners of the universe, and let down to the earth.

In surveying the mercies of the past year, while we sympathise with our fellow-citizens in distant parts of the Union visited with pestilential disease, let us be thankful for the great measure of health which has prevailed within our own borders.

Let us, on the day of the public annual Thanksgiving, express our gratitude to the Author of Good for all our public and private blessings; more especially

For the continuance of peace with foreign nations, and tranquillity at home;

For the constitution of Free Government under which we live; and laws and institutions favorable to the improvement and happiness of the citizen;

For the increasing care of education in the community, and for the rapid progress of the useful sciences and arts, and of good learning; and

For the measure of prosperity which prevails in the Commonwealth, and the share of the comforts of life which has been allotted to the people of this State, in as great a degree as to any portion of the human family.

Above all, let us not fail to render our devout acknowledgments to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he has been pleased to add to all his other mercies the gift of his Son, our Savior, and the hope of Pardon and Immortal Life in his Gospel.

The people of the Commonwealth are invited to set apart the above-named day from the ordinary business of life, to assemble in their usual places of religious worship, and unite in those devotional exercises which become the occasion. They are requested to abstain from all amusements inconsistent with the character of the day. As winter approaches, let those whom it finds comfortably housed, clothed and fed, remember that there are some, both in town and country, who suffer for want of the necessities of life; and let the hand which is raised in thanksgiving be opened in charity.

*Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this twenty-seventh day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States the sixty-fourth.*

EDWARD EVERETT.

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

JOHN P. BIGELOW, *Secretary of the State.*

GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.