

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

**EDWARD EVERETT,**

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

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# PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

WHEREAS, the season of the year is at hand, at which it is customary to observe a day of **PUBLIC THANKSGIVING TO ALMIGHTY GOD**,—I do, with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint **THURSDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER NEXT**, to be set apart for that purpose. The good people of the Commonwealth, of all religious denominations, are invited to assemble on that day, in their respective places of worship, and to unite in those public exercises of gratitude and praise, which are appropriate to the occasion.

The experience of every person of reflection will suggest unnumbered causes of thankfulness, for which,—if his mind is not wholly insensible to religious impressions,—he will, in looking back upon another year, feel it at once his duty and his privilege, to pour out his heart in gratitude to that Being, who, in the midst of our unworthiness and transgressions, continues to crown us with his mercies.

Besides what concerns us as individuals, the season of the year calls upon us to express our heartfelt thanks to the Author of all Good, for the extraordinary prosperity of the past year, and especially for the ingathering of another harvest; which, notwithstanding the partial failure of a portion of the fruits of the earth, has still left us in the enjoyment of an amount of blessings, which demands our warmest gratitude. The great political and social privileges which distinguish our condition as a people,—the blessings of a free government,—of mild and equitable laws impartially administered,—and of a general state of progress,—require of us, on every suitable occasion, an earnest and

public acknowledgment;—and we ought especially, at this time, to render our thanks to the Ruler of Nations, that he has been pleased to continue to us the blessings of Peace. The general prevalence of health throughout our land should direct our thoughts to that Good Being, who has cast our lot in a salubrious climate, and has spared us the visitations of infectious disease:—and, above all other grounds of thankfulness, we should approach the throne of Grace with our heartiest ascriptions of praise, for the gift of the gospel, and the hope of pardon and eternal life, through our Lord and Saviour **JESUS CHRIST**.

With our humble tribute of thanks to the Great Source of Good, let us unite an affectionate remembrance of the poor. Acts of thanksgiving for our own mercies seem to lead appropriately to those deeds of beneficence, to which the friendless and destitute look for a portion of the supplies, which are to carry them through the inclement season of the year. There is no way in which we can return any thing to the Great Giver of our own comforts, but by ministering to the wants of those, whom He has been pleased to leave in a state of dependence on their fellow beings.

And the good people of the Commonwealth are respectfully invited to keep the customary festivities of the occasion, within the bounds prescribed by temperance, moderation, and the professed character of the day;—and to abstain from and discountenance every species of amusement, which tends to excess,—which interrupts the devotion of others,—or in any way violates the peace that ought to reign, on a day set apart by a Christian people for Public Acts of Religious Duty.

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

**EDWARD EVERETT.**

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

**JOHN P. BIGELOW, Secretary.**

**God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**

*Second bell at XI. A.M. Communion.*