

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

EDWARD EVERETT,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

A

PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER.

WHEREAS, through the good Providence of our Heavenly Father, we have been brought to that season of the year, when it is customary to set apart a day of **PUBLIC THANKSGIVING**; I have, with the advice and consent of the Council, appointed **THURSDAY, THE THIRTIETH DAY OF NOVEMBER**, to be observed for that purpose; and the good People of the Commonwealth, of all religious denominations, are invited to assemble on that day in their usual places of worship, and unite in appropriate exercises of gratitude to Almighty God, for the mercies they have enjoyed as individuals and as a community.

The year, which is now drawing towards a close, has been one, in some respects, of general embarrassment and distress; but it becomes us to be grateful that the substantial elements of our prosperity are unimpaired; and that the welfare and happiness of the people are the natural effects of the system under which we live, while the present suffering is produced only by its temporary derangement. We ought, therefore, with our prayers to Heaven for relief, to join our heartiest thanks for the numberless blessings, of which we remain in the undisturbed possession.

Let us especially render our acknowledgments to the Source of Good for the general prevalence of health;—for the abundance with which the earth has yielded so many of its fruits;—for the happy institutions of government and law, whose steady and quiet operation secures to us the enjoyment of inestimable social privileges, unknown to the greater part of mankind;—for the increasing progress

of improvement in the useful arts of life;—for the growth of knowledge;—for the general success, which has attended the numerous institutions among us for the promotion of the objects of Christian Philanthropy;—and above all, for that blessing, which infinitely transcends all other blessings, the continued enjoyment of the Light of the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Let our thanksgivings for all these mercies be rendered still more earnest, by a sentiment of deep contrition for our unworthiness as individuals and as a people; and let our Prayers for the continuance of our own blessings be accompanied with affectionate intercession for our fellow-men, that the comforts we enjoy,—liberty, law, knowledge, and the means of improvement,—may be every where extended to the benighted and oppressed;—that the voice of Truth and Humanity may be uttered with increasing power;—that a divine blessing may crown every good cause;—and especially that selfishness and corruption may be more and more subdued by the pure and generous spirit of our Holy Religion.

And the good People of the Commonwealth are earnestly invited to make the Annual Thanksgiving a matter not merely of customary observance, but of sincere feeling,—a season for kind social sentiments,—for the forgiveness of injuries,—for acts of good neighborhood;—and especially for the charitable remembrance of the Poor, to whom every harvest is scanty, and every year unprosperous, and whose wants are designed by Providence to call forth the virtues of their more favored fellow-men.

Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, this second day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, and in the sixty-second 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 of the State.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.