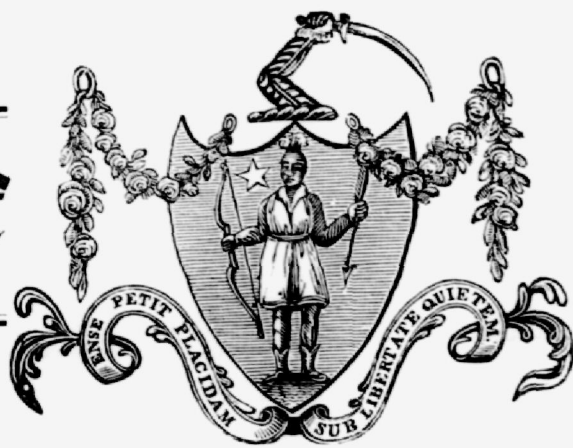

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY,

HENRY J. GARDNER,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS:

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

By the advice and consent of the Executive Council, I hereby appoint THURSDAY, the TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF NOVEMBER next, to be observed as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise.

Let us, assembling on that day in our customary places of public worship, as for so many generations our Fathers have done before us, bow with mingled gratitude and penitance before the God of Nations.

Let us thank Him for the olden, yet ever new, miracle by which the sunshine, the rain and the soil are transmuted, through the silent and mysterious processes of nature, into the splendors of summer and the wealth of the autumnal harvests.

Let us thank Him that health and peace have crowned our dwellings, that our varied material interests have been prospered, that our intellectual privileges have increased, and that his continued Spiritual blessings have been vouchsafed to our people.

Let us thank Him, moreover, that within our borders mental culture and honest industry reap universal respect and reward; that in mutual confidence and reciprocal duty the will of the many is the law of all; and that there is no station, or wealth, or learning, to which the humblest and poorest may not in honorable competition hopefully aspire.

Thus blessed, as a community and as individuals, may we remember that this day is specially consecrated to rational social joys as the Family Festival. Let this, its annual return, bind closer the parental and fraternal ties that linger with pleasant associations around each home; let the memories of the past, blending with the pleasures of this festive anniversary, give rise to fresh aspirations and manly resolves which shall live in the deeds of the future; may we realize that from the hearthstone radiate sentiments which kindle into patriotism and widen into philanthropy, and as the school is more potential than the laws, so the family is more important than the school in the influences which tend to the development of sound national character; and on this day may each household invoke the blessing of God that our Nation, our State and ourselves may be guided by His wisdom, sustained by His arm, and governed by His law.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this twenty-ninth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-first.

HENRY J. GARDNER.

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

FRANCIS DEWITT, Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!