
Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

HENRY J. GARDNER,

GOVERNOR:

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

ANOTHER year, freighted with duties and responsibilities, with blessings and sorrows, with hopes and with disappointments, brings us to the period when the custom of ages, as well as obligation and propriety, older far than custom, calls upon us as a people to dedicate a special season to the grateful remembrance of the past and a confiding trust in the future.

I do, therefore, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, appoint THURSDAY, the TWENTY-SIXTH OF NOVEMBER next, as a day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING, PRAISE AND PRAYER.

Whether in our accustomed places of public worship, at our family festive gatherings, or by the privacy of our own firesides, may we humbly thank the Source and Giver of every good for the innumerable blessings which have crowned the passing year. For religious and educational privileges, for national peace, for the promotion of benevolent and moral enterprises, for the protection of law, for preservation from pestilence, for the general reward to industry, and for the affluent harvests, another year demands our new acknowledgments.

If this anniversary finds a vacant seat in any of those family gatherings, may it remind us of that better and happier home where vacant places never occur, and where Thanksgiving never ceases.

As its return meets many in the midst of commercial misfortune, when the results of years of labor have been suddenly swept away, and many industrious hands deprived of the opportunity of pursuing their wonted avocations, may they still be thankful that the great blessings of life and health, friends and hope, are yet vouchsafed to them, and confidently trust, that, under the favor of Heaven, renewed prosperity will again reward the honest energies of our people.

And may we especially remember that this day brings with it peculiar duties; that gratitude which is shown in charity is doubly blessed, and that he who plants in almsgiving shall reap abundantly of that harvest which neither blight nor drought can affect, which is garnered, not into barns, but into hearts—the harvest of happiness to himself and to all about him.

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-seven, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-second.

HENRY J. GARDNER.

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

FRANCIS DEWITT, Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.