

Commonwealth  of Massachusetts.

By His Honor

Moses Gill, Esq' r.

*Lieutenant-Governor and Commander in Chief*

In and over the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

# A PROCLAMATION

For a *DAY* of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING.

**A**S the Providence of God has a controlling influence over all the events that take place amongst men, and as the blessings which we enjoy, and the salvations which we as a people experience, carry with them visible marks of that Divine Providence, and public and national Blessings do call for public and Thankful Acknowledgments—Impressed with these sentiments, and agreeably to the ancient usage of our pious Ancestors, at this returning season

**I have thought fit, by and with the advice and consent of the Council,**

to Appoint, and I do hereby Appoint THURSDAY, the TWENTY-EIGHTH Day of NOVEMBER NEXT, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth, as a Day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING and PRAISE, that we may kneel before the LORD, our Maker, to acknowledge and praise him for the blessings of his Providence and Grace, and devoutly to implore the continuance of his favor,

To thank him that he has continued to us our Civil Privileges, prospered the Administration of our Government, and that we now enjoy peace and tranquillity.

That God, in his good Providence, has continued the invaluable life of the PRESIDENT of the *United States of America*, and has inspired him with eminent wisdom and firmness in the management of our National Concerns.

That He still continues to bless and prosper our University at *Cambridge*, and that our Colleges, Academies and Schools now flourish under the smiles of Divine Providence.

That He has continued the Gospel to us in its purity, and has enabled the Public Teachers of Religion, so to disseminate the knowledge of Divine Revelation, as to give a check to the progress of infidelity, which, with other events, opens to us a pleasing prospect that the interest and kingdom of our Divine Redeemer may speedily prevail and be universally established.

That we have the benefit of so many admirable discoveries and inventions; and that our Citizens have so much opportunity and encouragement for the further improvement of those entertaining and useful arts and sciences, which tend to advance the human mind in the sublimest knowledge.

That He has prospered our Fishery, and given us so largely to partake of the abundance of the seas.

That Divine Providence has placed us in a fruitful Country, crowned our years with his goodness, blessed the labor of the field, and caused the earth to yield her increase, in so great abundance, for the supplies of the necessaries, conveniences and delights of life, so that the husbandman has returned with joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

That notwithstanding in his Holy Providence he has visited some of our sister States with a grievous, epidemical and mortal Disease, which has awakened our sympathy and attention, yet, some few instances excepted, he has preserved us from that dangerous Contagion, and the People of this Commonwealth have enjoyed such a degree of Health as has been scarcely known in the memory of man.

That, though great spoliations have been committed on our Commerce, yet the Merchants have prosecuted their extensive trade to great advantage; and through the vigilance of our Naval Force, our Navigation has generally been protected, under the smiles of Him whom the winds and seas obey.

That, notwithstanding new scenes of blood have been opened in *Europe*, and have flowed with copious effusion, yet the progress of events has been such as to favor the Independence of other Nations, and the stability of our own.

And I do hereby enjoin upon all Ministers and Public Teachers of Religion, of every denomination, throughout this Commonwealth, to assemble with their several Congregations, at their usual Places of Public Worship, on said day, for the purposes aforesaid. At the same time I do most fervently recommend supplication for Divine Mercy, through CHRIST, for the pardon of our past offences, that we may still place our trust in Him who has done so great things for us already, whereof we rejoice, and learn from the consideration of former Mercies, to rely upon Providence for future blessings; that Philanthropy may pervade the whole globe; that all mankind be brought to bow to the Sceptre of the Prince of Peace, and that the kingdoms of this world may become the Kingdom of our LORD and of his CHRIST, that he may reign for ever and ever.

And I do also recommend to the good People of this Commonwealth, to abstain from all servile labor and recreation unsuitable to the Religious Solemnities of the said day.

*Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, this seventeenth day of October, in the year of our LORD, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, and in the twenty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States of America.*

By his Honor's Command, with the  
advice and consent of the Council. }

JOHN AVERY, *Secretary.*

MOSES GILL.

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.