

1863

BY HIS EXCELLENCY
JOSEPH A. GILMORE,
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

A PROCLAMATION
FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

In accordance with a custom, praiseworthy in its origin, but which has too frequently degenerated into a mere form, I, with the advice of the Executive Council, hereby designate THURSDAY, the TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF NOVEMBER next, as a day of Public Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the great and signal blessings which we have received at his hands.

Our Heavenly Father has given to this Nation during the past year such prosperity as no other people have ever known during the vigorous prosecution of an internal war. We have been called upon to endure hardships and make sacrifices, but our sacrifices have not been in vain. Glorious victories have crowned our arms on many a well fought field; foreign nations have been compelled to respect the courage of our noble soldiers and the unwearied devotion of our citizens, and as a foretaste of the result of our bloody struggle we can rejoice to-day that the Sun shines on a million of Freedmen, who, within the past year, have shown that they were fitted to exercise those rights, which God, in His own time, and in His own way, has given them.

I would remind the people of New Hampshire that it is their duty as loyal citizens to observe this day not only by family gatherings and social festivities, but by devoutly assembling in their usual places of worship for prayer and praise.

Around many a fireside there will be a vacant seat, but before the throne of God the whole family may be united; and while we sit down to tables loaded with the fruits of a bountiful harvest, let us not fail to remember the words of our blessed Savior, "The poor ye have always with you," "It is more blessed to give than to receive;" and above all let it be our boast that no family whose natural protectors are enlisted in the service of our country or sleep on the field of battle, lack those comforts, without which, a New England Thanksgiving is incomplete.

Given at the Council Chamber, at Concord, this third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth.

JOSEPH A. GILMORE,
Governor.

ALLEN TENNY, *Secretary of State.*