

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Christopher Gore,

Governor and Commander in Chief.

A PROCLAMATION,

For a Day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING and PRAISE throughout the State.

WHEREAS it is the first Duty and the highest Privilege of rational Beings, and especially of the Citizens of this Commonwealth, to unite in Praise and Glory to God, for the manifold Blessings received from his Hand, and to testify their humble Gratitude for the unmerited Mercies by which they have been, and continue to be distinguished.

I, therefore, according to the "constant usage in this State, and with the advice and consent of the Council," do appoint THURSDAY, the THIRTIETH DAY of NOVEMBER next, to be observed as a Day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING and PRAISE—And the Ministers and People of the respective Religious Societies of this Commonwealth, are requested to meet together on that Day, that we may unite in Adoration and Homage to Almighty God, the beneficent Parent of Mankind, and the Giver of all Good—that we may render to Him our acknowledgments and humble Thanks for the numerous Blessings He has been pleased to bestow upon us;—and above all, for the Light of the Gospel, and the inestimable Love, in the Redemption of the World by our Lord Jesus Christ—for the Civil and Religious Privileges by which the United States are distinguished;—for the maintenance of public Peace and Order—for the unexampled success of our Arms, which the People of this State have enjoyed during the last year;—for the Success on the Labor of the Husbandman; that, although He has permitted the Scourge of War in our Fields, yet so plentiful has been the Harvest of other good things, as abundantly to administer to our Necessities and Enjoyments—And notwithstanding various and multiplied obstructions, our Commerce, Manufactures and Fisheries have yielded us the Comfort and the Contentment of Life.

And, while we endeavour to render our Tribute of Praise and Thanksgiving acceptable to the Most High, let us humble ourselves before His Holy Name, for our innumerable and aggravated Offences, and beseech Him, that He would graciously confer upon us a mind duly to appreciate and rightly to use the peculiar Favours by which He has marked the People of this Land—that he would prosper the Administration of our Public Affairs—that our National and State Governments may be guided by the Councils of Wisdom and Truth; and directed by His unerring Wisdom to establish the Liberty of the Nation, and advance the Prosperity of all the People—that He would direct the means of Public Instruction and Education—that He would preserve the Innocence of our young Men, and enable us to transmit to future Generations the Liberty which He has vouchsafed to us, and to our Posterity—that He would break the Shackles of Slavery—that He would graciously send us a plentiful Harvest of peace and good News to increase our Knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, and to bestow a plentiful and a Spirit of Christian Charity and benevolence, and that He would graciously preserve that Blessing from the evil of the Day, and His Will be obeyed throughout the World.

And the People of this State are requested to abstain, on the aforementioned Day, from such Labour and Recreation, as are inconsistent with the Devotional Services hereby recommended.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this Seventeenth Day of October, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Nine, and in the Thirty-Fourth Year of the Independence of the United States of America.

CHRISTOPHER GORE.

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

WILLIAM TUDOR, *Secretary of the State.*

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!