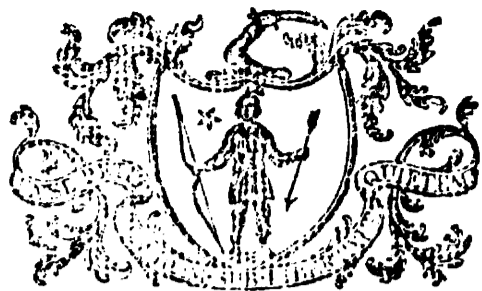


Commonwealth



of Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

John Hancock, Esquire,

GOVERNOR of the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS.

# A PROCLAMATION

For a DAY of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING.

**W**HEREAS it is the incumbent duty of Communities, as well as individual Persons, on all proper Occasions, to recollect the innumerable Blessings conferred upon them, by their all-gracious Father and Benefactor: And as the Season of the Year is now approaching, when, in imitation of the Example of our venerable Forefathers, a Day has been invariably set apart for this laudable and religious Purpose:

I HAVE THEREFORE THOUGHT IT FIT, and by the Advice and Consent of the COUNCIL, DO HEREBY accordingly appoint THURSDAY, the *Twenty-fifth* day of *November* next, to be observed as a Day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING and PRAISE, throughout this Commonwealth: Hereby calling upon Ministers and People of every denomination, to assemble on the said Day, and devoutly, and with one accord, to join in so rational and delightful an Exercise. Rendering to GOD the tribute of Praise, for his unmerited goodness towards us, in favouring us with so great a measure of Health,—in preserving us from desolating Judgments,—in *so far* smiling upon our Trade, our Fishery, and the works of our Hands,—in prospering the Industry of the Husbandman, and affording us the prospect of a plentiful Harvest,—in continuing to us the *innocent* enjoyments of social life—the means of Religion—the right of private Judgment, and the Holy Scriptures, which are able to enlighten and make us wise to Eternal Salvation. And, together with Thank-Offerings, it is highly becoming, that we present our humble and penitent Supplications to the God of all Grace, that He would be pleased mercifully to forgive our manifold Sins, and through the sanctifying Influences of his Spirit, correct our Hearts and Manners, and make us a holy and a happy People;—That He would be pleased to preserve to us our invaluable Rights and Liberties, civil and religious;—To prosper the administration of the Government of the United States, and of this, and the other States in the Union, according to the true intent of their respective Constitutions;—To afford his further Blessings on our Agriculture and Fishery, Commerce and Manufactures;—To smile upon our University, and all Seminaries of Learning, so that Streams may issue from them, to make glad the City of our God;—To bless the Allies of the United States, and all the Nations of the Earth;—To put an end to civil and religious invasions on the Rights of Men; and to cause the benign Religion of our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, to be known, understood and practiced among all the Inhabitants of the Earth.

And I do earnestly recommend to the good People of this Commonwealth, to abstain from all servile Labour and Recreation, inconsistent with the solemnity of the said Day.

*GIVEN at the Council-Chamber, in Boston, the sixteenth Day of September, in the Year of our LORD, one Thousand seven Hundred and Ninety, and in the fifteenth Year of the Independence of the United States of AMERICA.*

JOHN HANCOCK.

*By his Excellency's Command,  
With the advice and Consent of the Council,*

JOHN AVERY, jun. Secretary.

GOD save the Commonwealth of MASSACHUSETTS!