

Commonwealth



of Massachusetts.

By His EXCELLENCY

JOHN HANCOCK, Esquire,

Governour of the Commonwealth of MASSACHUSETTS.

A Proclamation,

For a DAY of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING.

THE Mercies which we are constantly receiving at the Hands of ALMIGHTY GOD, ought ever to remind us of our dependence upon, and obligations to HIM; and as the Business of the Year is now drawing towards a Conclusion, it becomes our special Duty, according to the laudable Usage of this Commonwealth, in a Public and social Manner, gratefully to acknowledge the manifold Bounties of DIVINE PROVIDENCE, conferred upon us in the course thereof.

I HAVE THEREFORE THOUGHT FIT, by and with the Advice of the COUNCIL, to appoint, and DO HEREBY appoint THURSDAY, the *Twenty-ninth* day of *November* next, to be set apart, and observed as a DAY of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING,—that all the People of this Commonwealth, may at one Time, and with one Voice, devoutly express their Gratitude to our Great BENEFACTOR, for HIS innumerable Benefits; particularly that in the course of the Year past, HE hath been pleased to favour the People with an uncommon Measure of Health; to restore Peace and Tranquility to this Commonwealth in so great a Degree; to order the Seasons so favourably, that the Labour of the Husbandman has been crowned with an abundance of the Produce of the Earth; to increase our Fisheries, and enlarge our Manufactures and Commerce, and graciously to direct and succeed the Administrations of Government,—and above all that HE has mercifully continued to us the Light of the Blessed GOSPEL, together with the full Enjoyment of our invaluable Privileges, religious and civil.

And I DO HEREBY exhort all Ministers of the Gospel, within this Commonwealth, with their several Congregations, to assemble on that Day, in their several Places of religious Worship; and in a Solemn and Public Manner, to render their unfeigned Thanks to ALMIGHTY GOD, for these and all other of HIS Mercies:—And I further recommend to Ministers and People, to accompany their *Thanksgivings*, with devout and fervent Prayers to the Great GOVERNOUR of the World—that, notwithstanding our Ingratitude, and manifold Transgressions, HE would continue HIS gracious Providence over us;—that HE would prosper our Public Councils,—and particularly, that, at this Important Crisis of our Public Affairs, HE would give all needed Wisdom to the Delegates, that may be appointed to take under Consideration the proceedings of the late Continental Convention,—and that the Result of their Deliberations, may be the Happy Establishment of such a Government, as may be adapted to the common Safety and Happiness;—and finally, that Peace and Concord, Truth and Justice, Benevolence and undefiled Religion, may universally prevail.

And it is earnestly recommended, that the said DAY be religiously observed, and that all unnecessary Labour be suspended thereon.

GIVEN at the COUNCIL-CHAMBER, in BOSTON, the *Twenty-fifth* Day of *October*, in the Year of our LORD, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-Seven, and in the *twelfth* 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!