

Commonwealth of



1831
Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

LEVI LINCOLN,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

IN the enjoyment of the richest Blessings of a Beneficent Providence, the People of this Commonwealth have been carried through another Revolution of the Seasons, and now, at the close of an abundant Harvest, with pious and grateful Hearts, they will seek to render to the SOVEREIGN DISPOSER of all events—the BOUNTIFUL GIVER of every Good, their united tribute of ACKNOWLEDGMENT, ADORATION, and PRAISE.

With the advice and consent of the Executive Council, I therefore invite them to observe **THURSDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER NEXT**, in offices of public **THANKSGIVING** to Almighty God, for the unmerited and unnumbered riches of his Grace conferred upon them, individually, and in their relations to the Community, through the past year. Let them consecrate the Day to the Worship and Homage of their Maker, and in Christian Communion in their respective Congregations, adore that Mercy which has spared their lives, and given them capacities and opportunities for social, intellectual, and religious improvement. In devout meditation and prayer, may they recognize the manifestations of Divine Favor towards them, in the enjoyment of Health, while Pestilence has been permitted to desolate distant Places;—in the preservation of Peace, while War has

ravaged other Countries;—in the Institutions of Civil Government, which have secured to them personal liberty, and the exercise of the right of private judgment;—in Literary and Charitable Associations, which are directed to enlightening the minds, and elevating and expanding the affections of Men;—in the possession of the Sacred Scriptures, in their simplicity and purity, by which they have a knowledge of the revealed will of God, and the hope of Salvation through the Ministry and Mediation of their Blessed Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

And while with grateful Hearts they recount the Blessings by which this Nation is distinguished above all other People, may they unite SUPPLICATION with **THANKSGIVING** to Heaven, imploring the continued smiles of Divine Providence upon our Beloved Country;—that the Union of the States may be confirmed and perpetuated;—that the Government may be one of Laws wisely framed and justly administered;—that intelligence, patriotism, virtue, and piety, may animate the People, and a sense of responsibility, and faithfulness to duty, direct their public Officers. And may the sincerity of their acknowledgments of Dependence, and of their ascriptions of Praise, be manifested by Sympathy for the Oppressed, and an active Charity in the relief of the Destitute of their Fellow Men.

Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, this seventeenth day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one, and in the fifty-sixth year of American Independence.

LEVI LINCOLN.

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

EDWARD D. BANGS, Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.