

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

LEVI LINCOLN,

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

A PROCLAMATION,

For a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise.

THE season having recurred, in which it has been usual for the Executive Authority to set apart a day as a religious Festival, in public and solemn recognition of the mercies and blessings of Divine Providence through the preceding year, and there being the most abundant cause for present acknowledgment and gratitude to Almighty God, I do, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint **THURSDAY, the TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF NOVEMBER** next, to be observed as a day of **THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE**, throughout this Commonwealth. And I do recommend to Ministers and People, of every religious denomination, to assemble on that day in their respective places of public worship, and to offer to the Author of all their enjoyments, their Creator, Protector and final Judge, the incense of hearts deeply sensible of his goodness.

That through the past year, and especially in a season of unusual heat and exhaustion, he has so generally preserved the health of the people of this Commonwealth;—That he has prospered them in their ordinary pursuits, and in schemes of laudable enterprise;—That he has given to the Husbandman a propitious seed time, and rewarded his labours, in the cultivation of most of the fruits and products of the Earth, with an abundant harvest;—That our Fisheries have been successful,—Navigation and Trade unmolested and profitable,—Manufactures and the Arts improving, and widely and usefully extended;—That the means of Education are greatly diffused, and more wisely and generally appreciated and enjoyed;—That the Institutions of Religion are held sacred, and all the people, in the possession of the Holy Scriptures, and by the support of a pious and learned Ministry, have opportunities for instruction in the great truths and doctrines which pertain to their final accountability and future state of existence. And let thanks be given to God for the favours conferred upon us in common with the other States of the Union;—That we have an able and impartial administration of the General Government;—That a spirit of conciliation and mutual confidence prevails among the people; and that peace, prosperity and happiness are pre-eminently the enjoyment and the distinguishing condition of the nation.

And while we rejoice in the mercies which we have experienced, let us supplicate the Throne of Grace for a humbling sense of our personal unworthi-

ness, for forgiveness of our sins, and for a spirit of wisdom and piety to reform our lives and regulate our future conduct. And with our praises let our prayers also be addressed to Heaven in behalf of our beloved Country;—That Almighty God would be pleased to continue to us the blessings of peace, and friendly and beneficial intercourse with other nations;—That He would preserve the Union of the States, their confidence in each other, and harmony between their respective Governments, and the Government of the Nation;—That He would mercifully regard the President of the United States, and all others who are called to the discharge of public duties in the General and State Governments, and enable them faithfully and acceptably to execute the trusts reposed in them;—That He would look with especial favour upon the Institutions of Learning, and increase the disposition to cultivate the means of literary and religious improvement with which we are so highly favoured;—That He would restore joy to those places which have been visited with the sadness of pestilence, and be the health of the countenance of His people through every part of our land;—That He would give success to the labours of industry, and prosper every lawful employment and undertaking.

And in our prayers may we not be unmindful of the condition of our fellow men in other regions of the world, but earnestly and fervently commending them to the mercy of God, beseech of Him, that He would extend the blessings of civil liberty and of just government to the oppressed and struggling nations of the Earth; that the arm of despotism may be arrested, and Man, in a state of civil society, may rise to the dignity of his moral nature, and, in the exercise of the capacity of self government, be free;—That He would prosper with a speedy and glorious issue, the means which are employed to disseminate a knowledge of His Holy Character and Will, and cause all the people who dwell on all the face of the Earth to understand and practice the way by which, through a divine redemption, they may hope to be finally happy.

And the people of the Commonwealth are requested to abstain from such labours and amusements as are inconsistent with the religious services of the occasion.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this Twenty-first day of October, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-Five, and in the Fiftieth Year of the Independence of the United States of America.

LEVI LINCOLN.

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

EDWARD D. BANGS, Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!