



By the HONOURABLE

**S P E N C E R P H I P S, Esq;**

Lieutenant-Governour and Commander in Chief, in and over his Majesty's Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay* in *New-England*.

# A PROCLAMATION, For a Publick Thanksgiving.



HEREAS it has been the laudable and uninterrupted Practice of the People of this Government, from the first Settlement of the Colony of *Massachusetts-Bay*, annually, to make their publick thankful and religious Acknowledgments of the Divine Favours received in the Course of the Year, there having been no Period even in the midst of the greatest Judgments in which there has not been large Experience of the Divine Compassion and Forbearance; AND WHEREAS, notwithstanding that in the Course of the Year that is past, GOD has been testifying his Displeasure against us, by the Frowns of his Providence upon our Publick Affairs, (the just Demerit of our heinous and provoking Transgressions,) He has still been pleased to confer upon us, and to suffer to be continued to us, many great and invaluable Blessings of which we are altogether undeserving, and which call for our publick and devout Thanksgivings; AND, His Majesty's Council and the House of Representatives having desired me to appoint and set apart a Day for this Purpose;

I have therefore thought fit to appoint Thursday the Twenty-fifth of the present Month of *November* to be observed thro'out the Province as a Day of Publick Thanksgiving, hereby requiring the several Assemblies for religious Worship to celebrate the same: And I do exhort Ministers and People to offer up their devout Praises and Adorations to Almighty GOD for his unmerited Favours vouchsafed to us the past Year; particularly, in that he hath been pleased to continue and maintain in the World his holy Religion, as professed by the Reformed Churches, against the restless Attempts of its inveterate Enemies; to preserve the important Life of our Sovereign Lord the KING, and the several Branches of His ROYAL FAMILY, and in so signal a Manner to unite the Hearts of his Subjects in Loyalty, Duty and Affection; to continue to this Province the Enjoyment of their Civil and Religious Privileges; to defend our Frontiers in so great a Measure in a Time of general Danger from the Ravages of a barbarous Enemy; to protect our Navigation and Fishery; to continue health in so many of our Towns, and to prevent epidemical and mortal Sickness from spreading among us; to give his Blessing on the Fruits of the Earth, and to grant us Plenty of such of them as are most necessary for the Support and Comfort of Life: And, together with publick Mercies, I recommend to Persons of all Conditions, a grateful Commemoration of private and personal Favours.

AND, with our Praises, it becomes us to join our humble Supplications to the Divine Majesty, and with truly penitent Frames of Soul, to implore, through the Merits of JESUS CHRIST, the Pardon of all our past Ingratitude, and the Influences of the BLESSED SPIRIT, to enable us suitably to relent and improve all the Dispensations of Providence, whether merciful or afflictive, and to acknowledge and adore the righteous Sovereignty of an infinitely wise GOD: And may Rulers and People so approve themselves to him as that he may be graciously pleased to avert the Judgments that are impending over us, to continue the Favours that we enjoy, and to bestow upon us all such further Mercies as we stand in need of.

AND all servile Labour is forbidden on the said Day.

GIVEN at the Council-Chamber in Boston, the Fifth Day of November 1756, In the Thirtieth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Second, by the Grace of GOD, of Great-Britain, France & Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c.

By Order of the Honourable the Lieutenant-Governour,  
with the Advice of the Council,  
J. Willard, Secr'y.

S. Phips.

**G O D Save th KING.**