

By His EXCELLENCY

WILLIAM SHIRLEY, Esq;

Captain-General and Governour in Chief, in and over His MAJESTY'S Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay*
in NEW-ENGLAND.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N

For a general THANKSGIVING.



IT having pleased Almighty GOD, in his wise Providence, to lead the Government of this Province into the Forming and Undertaking of an Expedition against the *French* Settlements on *Cape-Breton*, and to incline some of the neighbouring Governments to assist herein; and in a remarkable manner to spirit this People most cheerfully to hazard their Lives and Estates in the Service of their KING and Country, as also to dispose our gracious Sovereign seasonably to order a sufficient Naval Force to support and vigorously to prosecute this Expedition, to unite the Land and Sea-Officers in the same Councils for the common Cause, to preserve Health both in the Camp and Fleet, and by a wonderful Series of Successes to bring this great Affair to a happy Issue in the Reduction of the City and Fortress of *Louisbourg*, with the Dependencies thereof, to the Obedience of His Majesty with so little Effusion of Blood;

I have therefore thought fit, With the Advice of His Majesty's Council, to appoint Thursday the Eighteenth Day of July Instant to be observed as a Day of publick THANKSGIVING throughout this Province to Almighty GOD, for the wonderful and gracious Conduct of his Divine Providence in every Part of this important Enterprize; hereby calling upon Ministers and People religiously to observe the said Day, in devout Expressions of their highest Gratitude to the divine Majesty, for this Instance of his great Goodness towards a sinful and unworthy People; ascribing the Glory of this memorable Event to the Wisdom, Power and Goodness of GOD, whose right Hand and holy Arm hath obtained the Victory, and enabled us to overcome the High Places of our Enemies; and that while so great a Part of our Strength has been employed in prosecuting this Expedition, GOD has been graciously pleased to protect and preserve both our Sea Coasts and Inland-Frontiers in Safety, so that our Enemies have been in a remarkable manner refrained from making any Assaults upon us, and with their thankful Praises to join their humble and fervent Supplications to our merciful GOD that he would preserve and protect his Majesty's sacred Person, and still prosper his Arms for defeating the Designs of his Enemies and Weakening their Power; and that GOD would be pleased to govern the Consequences of this happy Event for the future Safety of these His Majesty's Northern-Colonies, and for the Enlargement of the Trade and Navigation of his Majesty's Subjects both in Great-Britain and America; and that it would please GOD to affect the Hearts of this People with a deep Sense of the divine Goodness, that so they may be thereby led to Repentance and Reformation of those Things that are displeasing in his Sight; and that it would also please GOD to put a speedy end to this destructive War, and advance the glorious and peaceable Kingdom of our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, and that his pure and holy Religion may be professed and practiced in those Places where graven Images have been worshipped; and that the whole Earth may be filled with His Glory. And all servile Labour is forbidden on said Day.

And all persons whatsoever, especially such as are in civil Authority, are hereby called upon to use their Endeavours that all Disorders unbecoming so sacred a Solemnity may be prevented.

Given at the Council-Chamber in Boston, the Eighth Day of July 1745. In the Nineteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Second, by the Grace of GOD of GREAT-BRITAIN, FRANCE and IRELAND, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c.

By His Excellency's Command,
with the Advice of the Council,
J. WILLARD, Secr.

W. Shirley.

G O D save the KING.