




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 PROCLAMATION

## For a General Thanksgiving.

 ORASMUCH as it has pleased GOD graciously to regard the distressed State of the People of this Province under the late extream Drought ( attended with a great Number of noxious Insects ) which threatened a general Destruction of the Fruits of the Earth, and to grant us Relief by the plentiful Showers of Heaven whereby the parched Earth has been greatly refreshed and the perishing Fruits revived, and the Insects in some good Measure destroyed, so far as to give us good Hopes that ( by the Continuance of the Divine Blessing ) we may have a competent Supply for the Necessities and Comforts of Life ;

**I** have therefore thought fit, With the Advice of His Majesty's Council, and at the Desire of the House of Representatives, to appoint Thursday the Twentieth fourth of August Instant, to be observed throughout this Province as a Day of General Thanksgiving ; hereby calling upon Ministers and People religiously to solemnize the same, by offering up their sincere and devout Praises to Almighty GOD ( who is the Father of the Rain, and begets the Drops of Dew ) for this great and reasonable Mercy, with humble Acknowledgements of our absolute Dependence upon his Sovereign Pleasure for all Blessings, and our utter Unworthiness of the least of them ; And with their thankful Praises, to join their humble and fervent Supplications for the Continuance of the Divine Goodness in these Respects ( as well as all others ; ) and that GOD would so order the Seasons in the remaining Part of the Year, that there may be Food sufficient both for Man and Beast ; And above all, that it would please GOD ( who has the hearts of all Men in his hands ) to sanctify all the Dispensations of his Providence towards us for promoting a general and unfeigned Repentance and Reformation, especially of those heinous Sins which have been the Ground of GOD's righteous Displeasure against us ; and that we may be that happy People whose GOD is the LORD. And all servile Labour is forbidden on the said Day.

*Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, the Eighth Day of August, 1749.  
In the Twenty third Year of His Majesty's Reign.*

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

*W. Shirley.*

**GOD save the KING.**