

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

CALEB STRONG,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

A PROCLAMATION,

For a Day of Public Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer.

TO impress upon our minds a devout sense, that we are continually dependent on the SUPREME BEING for his unmerited care and support, and that all our reasonable expectations of future benefits center in Him, it has been our invariable practice, in each year, to set apart a day, that we may confess our multiplied offences, and beseech him to bestow upon us what his infinite wisdom sees will be conducive to our present advantage and our future happiness. Such religious services are peculiarly suitable at the present time, when we experience the tokens of Divine displeasure, and our country is involved in a calamitous and threatening war.

Therefore, with the advice and consent of the Council, I appoint THURSDAY, the eighth day of April next, to be observed by the people of this State as a day of public Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer: and the several denominations of Christians are requested to assemble on that day, that we may unite in humble adoration of the Divine Being who retains not his anger forever, because he delights in mercy: and beseech Him that he would look from Heaven, his holy habitation, and bless this people and the land which he has given us: and that He would establish his Covenant between Him and us, and our children after us, for an everlasting Covenant:

That the President and Congress of the United States may be under His influence and direction, and be led into such measures as shall tend to preserve the Union of the States, and promote their safety and tranquillity: That the Government of this Commonwealth may clearly discern and faithfully discharge their duty; and that the people may know the things that belong to their peace: That He would preserve them, in the course of the ensuing year, from domestic violence and foreign invasion; from scarcity of bread; from contagious sickness and untimely death—That He would prosper the means of education; and that His eyes may be upon us for good from the beginning to the end of the year—That the Heavens may give their dew, and the earth yield her increase; and that God, even our God, may bless us:

That he would preserve the lives of our soldiers and seamen; that he would deliver us from the miseries and perils of war; and give us peace in our borders, that we may be quiet from fear of evil:

That the calamities under which we labor may produce in us sincere repentance, and prove in the issue to be the chastisement of paternal wisdom and love: That we may be prepared for the events which are before us; and that with humble acquiescence, we may refer ourselves and all our concerns to the Divine disposal, and submit without repining to the most afflicting circumstances which Providence shall appoint:

That the different denominations of Christians, by the exercise of unfeigned charity, may promote mutual respect and condescension: That the Ministers of Religion may adorn their profession by their eminent attainments and exemplary goodness, and maintain such purity of manners as will render them worthy examples to their people: That the Churches of Christ may be edified, and adhere to the doctrines of the Gospel with that peaceable and candid temper which it inculcates; and that we may all be animated in the course of our duty by the prospect of those rewards, which He has proposed to crown the perseverance of his people.

And while we are employed in humble supplications for ourselves and our beloved Country, let us not be unmindful of our duty to all our fellow men: let us intreat the common Father of mankind that he would execute righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed, and be a refuge for them in times of trouble: That He would confound the devices of the enemies of His Church, so that their hands shall not perform their enterprize: That He would make wars to cease to the ends of the earth, and that all nations may know and be obedient to that grace and truth which came by JESUS CHRIST.

And the people of this State are requested to abstain from unnecessary labour and recreation on the said day.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this Thirteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirteen, and in the Thirty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

CALEB STRONG.

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

ALDEN BRADFORD, Secretary of State.

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!