

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

CALEB STRONG,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

A PROCLAMATION,

For a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer.

THE Divine forbearance exercised towards us, and the innumerable favors we receive, even in times of calamity and distress, afford abundant cause of gratitude to the Almighty, who does not willingly afflict us, and who "in wrath remembers mercy." Especially we have reason to rejoice in the assurance that all things are in the hands and under the government of an infinitely kind and gracious Being, who loves righteousness, and delights to exert his Almighty power, not to destroy his creatures, but to uphold and preserve them:—That His ears are always open to their supplications, when they call upon Him in trouble; and though his judgments are mysterious and His ways past finding out, yet they will hereafter appear to have been directed by perfect wisdom, equity and goodness:—

I DO, THEREFORE, agreeably to the invariable usage in this State, and with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint THURSDAY, the First day of December next, to be observed as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer: And the people are requested to meet together in their several places of worship on that day, that we may offer unto God our united tribute of Thanksgiving and Praise, and present Him the acceptable sacrifice of penitent and affectionate hearts; and beseech Him, that a spirit of true devotion may accompany us in our joint offices of religious worship, and that He would accept our humble and grateful acknowledgements for the personal and public blessings He has conferred upon us:

For His favor to this land, in the time of our Fathers, when He defended them from the greatest dangers, and delivered them out of the greatest distress; and for all His merciful interpositions in behalf of the people of this State within our own memory: For the health which generally prevails through the State, and for the various fruits which the earth has produced the last season, by which our wants are comfortably supplied:—For the protection He has afforded to many of our exposed towns on the sea coast: For the support He has vouchsafed to us as individuals, and the relief He has afforded to us in times of want and danger: And above all for the wonderful scheme of Salvation which He has devised, and the transcendent display of His love and grace in the redemption of mankind by the gift of His Son.

At the same time let us recognize with gratitude the goodness of God to other nations; and adore the wisdom of His Providence, which has overruled the ambition and wickedness of men, to subserve His own gracious purposes, and accomplish the deliverance and safety of a great part of the christian world:—That under His influence, the allied Princes of Europe, forgetting their mutual differences, united to humble the pride and restrain the

ambition of the great destroyer of mankind; and that peace is restored to the oppressed nations on the continent of Europe.

But while we thankfully celebrate the goodness of God to ourselves and others, it becomes us with deep contrition, to humble ourselves before Him for our multiplied transgressions, and the tokens of His righteous anger, in still afflicting us with the calamities of a distressing war, which threatens to impoverish our country, and by which the lives of many of our fellow citizens have been destroyed, and numerous widows and fatherless children have been made miserable: And to beseech Him that He would prevent the judgments that threaten us, and purify us from our sins, which have caused His heavy displeasure against us: That He would make us understand where-in we have erred, and not suffer us to walk in a way of injustice and deceit, until it terminates in ruin: That He would put an end to the miseries of the present war, and in the mean time defend our exposed towns from destructive ravages, and guard the lives and property of our citizens: That with deep humility we may accept the punishment of our iniquities, and patiently bear His indignation because we have sinned against Him: And that, by the gloomy prospect before us, we may be led to place our unfeigned reliance on Him who rules in the kingdom of men, and whose favor and protection are the only sure means of our safety:

That He would preserve and bless the United States and lead them in a course of integrity and truth: That He would direct the President and Congress, and all who are in authority, to such measures as shall tend to the peace and prosperity of the people: That the rulers of both the contending nations may be disposed to cherish friendly sentiments and establish peace upon just and equitable terms: That He would preserve the union of these States; and that we may yet see our country a peaceable habitation; a quiet resting place:

That He would succeed the attempt, which are made to convey the knowledge of the Gospel to the most distant heathen nations; and that we may soon rejoice in a fairer prospect of that period, when we shall no more hear the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war; when the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; when the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

And the people are requested to abstain from unnecessary labor and unsuitable recreation on the said day.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this Eleventh Day of October, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fourteen, and in the Thirty-Ninth 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.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!