

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

**CALEB STRONG,**

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH,

**A PROCLAMATION,**

*For a Day of Publick Thanksgiving and Prayer.*

AS new mercies are continually descending upon us, we ought renewedly to express the grateful sentiments of our hearts for the blessings imparted to ourselves and others, and to make it our employment, even in times of adversity and distress, to acknowledge the Divine goodness, which can direct the most afflictive dispensations of Providence to our greatest advantage. It becomes us, therefore, at the close of the present season, to appropriate a day to be employed in the offices of religious worship; that we may unite in humble acknowledgments of our unworthiness, in fervent prayer for Divine forgiveness and mercy, and in public expressions of reverence and gratitude to our Almighty Creator, Preserver and Benefactor, for all the bounties of Providence which He has vouchsafed to us, and especially for the blessings of grace, and the hopes of immortality.

I do, therefore, with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint THURSDAY, the *twenty-sixth day of November next*, to be observed by the people of this State as a day of public Thanksgiving and Prayer; that with one accord we may join to pay our homage to the God of our mercies, and recollect His goodness with those emotions of heart which an attentive and grateful review of the benefits we have received is capable of exciting; and to offer Him our sacrifice of thanksgiving for the general and personal blessings He has bestowed upon us—For the general health which the people have been favoured with—For the degree of plenty with which He has crowned the year—For quietness and safety in our dwellings; and that He has preserved us from the ravages of war, and the violence of lawless and vindictive men—For the numerous instances in which He has delivered us from public calamity or domestic distress—For his goodness in preserving the lives of so many of our fellow-citizens who have been exposed to the perils of War—For His care in providing for our individual wants—For the pleasures of social life, and all those improvements which render life more commodious and agreeable—And above all for the display of the riches of His wisdom and love in devising such an admirable method for the redemption of mankind by the death of His Son, in which he has most eminently illustrated and glorified both His justice and His grace.

And while with gratitude we recount the benefits we have received, let us humbly acknowledge, that, by our sins, we have exposed ourselves to the calamities we suffer. And let us unite in earnest supplications to the God of our Fathers for the peace and prosperity of our country; and beseech Him, that He will still be our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble; and that he would not correct us in his anger, lest He bring us to nothing; That He would save us from the destructive influence of any foreign power; That he would preserve the union and independence of these States, and afford to the President and Congress His guidance and direction: That our National Rulers and the Government of Great-Britain may be influenced by a spirit of moderation and justice; That the people of both countries may remember they are descended from the same ancestors, and believe in the same Gospel of Salvation; and that all obstructions to the establishment of an equitable and lasting Peace may be removed.

That in the mean time He would preserve the lives of our soldiers and seamen and prevent the further effusion of human blood. That whatever afflictive events are before us, we may have unreserved confidence in the wisdom and rectitude of His administration; and be satisfied, that though now, clouds and darkness are round about Him, yet His ways will hereafter be fully vindicated, and every trace of seeming imperfection will be done away.

That He would have compassion upon the nations which are oppressed, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor; That the revolutions which are taking place in the kingdoms of the world may prepare the way for the universal reign of truth and righteousness, and the durable and extensive prosperity of the Christian Church: That the Scriptures may be translated into every language and published to every nation; and that all the ends of the earth may turn to the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations worship before Him.

And I request the citizens of this Commonwealth to suspend unnecessary labour, and abstain from unsuitable recreations, on said day.

*Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this Thirteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twelve, 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 the Council, }

**ALDEN BRADFORD, Secretary of the Commonwealth.**

**God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!**

