



Commonwealth of **Massachusetts.**

By His Excellency

**Caleb Strong, Esqr.**

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

**A PROCLAMATION**

For a Day of Publick **THANKSGIVING.**

**A**S we are under the highest obligations for the goodness of the Supreme Being, in giving this land to us and to our fathers, in upholding our lives with a rich variety of his bounty, in appointing his Son to lay a foundation for our happiness, and in bestowing numberless favors upon the people of this State in the course of the last year, which comes us, at the close of it, to render our joint tribute of adoration and praise to that great and constant Benefactor, who has daily loaded us with benefits, and who pours comforts upon all that live :

**Therefore, with the advice and consent of the Council, I appoint**

*Thursday, the twenty-sixth Day of November next,* to be observed through the Commonwealth as a Day of Publick Thanksgiving and Praise ; and the Ministers and People of every denomination are requested to assemble on that day, in their respective places of Publick Worship, that we may devoutly present to the Lord our Maker, the affectionate gratitude of our hearts, for all the goodness which He has caused to pass before us ; for the support and accommodation of our lives ; for the continuance of our civil and religious liberty ; for the unusual degree of health which He has granted to us ; and for the means we possess of attaining and diffusing useful knowledge : And that He has been pleased to give us rain in due season, and to cause the earth to yield her increase in abundance ; that He has prospered our Commerce , Navigation and Fisheries ; that He has given us peace in our borders, and quietness and safety in our dwellings ; and that He has crowned the year with his goodness, and caused our cup of blessings to run over.

And while, with grateful emotions, we contemplate the scenes of prosperity, let us humble ourselves before Him for our innumerable offences, and earnestly beseech Him, that He would forgive us, and make us still the objects of His divine favour ; that with the bounties of nature He would grant us the blessings of grace ; and that He would animate us to a temper and conduct, which may correspond with the benefits we have received, and the felicity after which we are encouraged to aspire ; that He would smile upon our University, Colleges and Schools, and succeed the means of religious and moral instruction ; that He would direct and prosper the Government of the *United States*, and that the President, and all others who are employed in its important offices, may discharge their respective duties with prudence, integrity, and patriotism ; that the Governments of the several States may do all that is incumbent upon them, to preserve union, order and tranquillity ; and that the whole People may duly estimate the advantages by which they are distinguished : That He would restrain the rage of contending nations, and that the great events which are taking place, may be made subservient to the triumph of the Gospel, and the happiness of mankind ; and that the period may arrive, when violence and oppression shall cease, and righteousness shall be established in all the earth ; when the different nations of men shall be united in the bands of brotherly love ; when every species of false Religion shall disappear, and the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

And the inhabitants of the State are earnestly requested to abstain from such labour and recreation as are inconsistent with the solemnities of the said day.

*Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, this fifteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and one, and in the twenty-sixth year of the Independence of the United States of America.*

**CALEB STRONG.**

By His Excellency's Command, with the Advice and the Consent of the Council. }

**JOHN AVERY, Secretary:**

*God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts !*