

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

By His Excellency

Caleb Strong, Esq.

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

A PROCLAMATION,

For a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise.

AT this season of the year it is highly proper for us, according to the usage of our pious ancestors, to devote a day to the honour and praise of the Almighty ;—that with united devotion, we may abundantly utter the memory of His great goodness, and sing of His righteousness ; and that we may teach our children His praises and His wonderful works— that the generation to come may know them, and the children which shall be born that they may set their hope in God.

I do, therefore, with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint THURSDAY, the Twenty-eighth day of November next, to be observed in this Commonwealth as a Day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING and PRAISE ; and the several denominations of Christians are requested to assemble in their respective places of Public Worship on that day ;—that we may unite in rendering our humble and solemn thanks to the great Author of all our mercies ;—for the protection He has afforded to the people of this state from its early settlement ;—that He brought our Forefathers from their native country, and gave them this land for a possession, because He had a favor to them : that when they were few in number and strangers in it, He suffered no man to do them wrong ;—and that in times of distress and danger He has ever been the refuge of their posterity, and defended them with the saving strength of His right hand.—For the preservation of our civil privileges ; that we have constitutions of Government so well adapted to promote our happiness ; and that our lives and property are secured by wise and equal laws.—For the continuance of our national peace and prosperity.—For the general health which the people of this state have enjoyed in the course of the last year.—For His goodness and mercy in the blessings of harvest : and that though He was pleased to visit a great part of the State with a severe drought, yet he has not broken the staff of bread, nor taken away the corn in the season of it.

For the success which He has granted to our commerce, manufactures and fisheries : and for the abundant variety of good things which tend, not only to our necessary support, but to our ornament and delight.—And above all for the covenant of grace established in the Redeemer, and the spiritual and endless blessings conveyed through him.

And from a consciousness that we are at the disposal of His mercy, let us join in acknowledgements of our unworthiness, and in humble supplications that He would forgive our offences, and accept our feeble attempts to render Him the homage that is worthy of Him.—And that from a grateful sense of the riches both of His Providence and Grace, He would engage us to a course of faithful and universal obedience, and enable us to consecrate to His service the powers and faculties He has given us, and the blessings with which we are encompassed.

That He would direct and prosper our National and State Governments, and cause the people to dwell in tranquillity ;—that He would bless the Administration of Justice, and the Institutions of Religion and Learning ; and that He would pour His spirit upon us from on high, and remember for us His former loving-kindness and mercy, that glory may dwell in our Land.

That He would dispose the contending nations of Europe to peace, upon terms conducive to the general safety and happiness of mankind ; that wasting and violence may no more be heard ; and that the Sun of Righteousness may dispel the clouds of ignorance and error which have overspread the earth, and diffuse among all nations the knowledge and grace of the Gospel.

And the People of this State are requested to abstain from such labour and recreation as are inconsistent with the religious services hereby recommended.

Given at the Council Chamber, in BOSTON, this seventeenth day of October, in the Year of our LORD, one thousand eight hundred and five, and in the thirtieth Year of the Independence of the United States of America.

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

JOHN AVERY, Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts !

CALEB STRONG.