

Commonwealth of  Massachusetts.

By His Excellency

Caleb Strong, Esq.

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

A PROCLAMATION,

For a Day of Public Thanksgiving.

IT being the ancient and laudable usage in this State, at the close of the year, to appoint a solemn festival, to commemorate the goodness of the Supreme Being; and publickly to acknowledge that He is the author of all our prosperity; that we owe Him our continual gratitude for His unmerited favors; and that He is the source and end of all the good we are capable of doing or receiving.

I do, therefore, with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint **THURSDAY**, *the twenty-fifth day of November next*, to be observed by the people of this Commonwealth as a day of **PUBLIC THANKSGIVING and PRAISE**:—And the Ministers and People of every denomination, are requested to meet together on that day, that we may devoutly unite in our humble and thankful acknowledgments to Almighty God for the great and numerous blessings, which he has vouchsafed to bestow upon us;—for the peace and tranquillity with which we are favored;—for the enjoyment of our civil and religious privileges;—for the health which he has been pleased to continue in a great part of the State, and his kind interposition in behalf of those places that have been visited with sickness;—for the success which he has granted to our trade, manufactures and fisheries;—for the smiles of His Providence upon the labours of husbandry in the course of the last season, and the abundance of food with which we are supplied;—and for the benefits He has conferred upon other nations, and that profusion of Divine Goodness by which innumerable multitudes are made happy.

And to the acknowledgments of pious gratitude, let us join the penitent confession of our sins, and our humble supplications to the God of all Grace, that by the influences of His Spirit, He would purify our hearts and make us fruitful in all the works of righteousness;—that He would prosper the administration of our National and State Governments, and that all their measures may be directed by truth and integrity;—that by His Blessing on the means of education and public instruction, our youth may be trained to industry, virtue, and useful knowledge;—that the people may be united in the ties of mutual friendship and affection, and inspired with sentiments of justice and love of their Country;—and that we may continue to possess this good land, and leave it for an inheritance for our children after us forever.

That with the increase of commerce, the blessings of society and friendly intercourse may be extended, and provision made for the universal spreading of Divine Knowledge;—and that all opposition to the cause and interest of the Redeemer may appear to be in vain, and His Kingdom triumph over all its enemies.

And the people of this State are requested to abstain from labor, and such amusements as are inconsistent with the solemn services of the said day.

Given at the Council-Chamber, in Boston, this twenty-second day of October, in the year of our LORD one thousand eight hundred and two, and in the twenty seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

CALEB STRONG.

By His Excellency's command, with the
advice and consent of the Council. }

JOHN AVERY, Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!