

CALEB STRONG,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

A PROCLAMATION,

For a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise.

THROUGH the goodness of the Supreme Being, we have been preserved another year, and, in the course of it, have received numerous and distinguishing benefits, and have been rescued from the calamities of war. It is then highly proper for us, agreeably to the practice of our Fathers, to devote a day at the close of the year, to be observed as a religious festival; that we may join to pay our public and grateful adoration to the God of our lives, and praise Him for all His mercies in pious and devout Thanksgiving.

I DO, THEREFORE, with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint THURSDAY, the Thirtieth day of November next, to be observed by the people of this State, as a day of public Thanksgiving and Praise; and the religious societies of every denomination are requested to meet together on that day, that in our public Assemblies, we may, with united hearts, present the homage of veneration and gratitude to our gracious Benefactor, who has preserved our lives from the dangers that have daily threatened them, and who opens His hand and fills all things living with plenteousness; and, with united voices, may mention His loving kindness, and sing praises to Him for the good things He has given us: For the happy change which has taken place in the circumstances of our Country, by the restoration of Peace: For the supplies of a plentiful harvest, and all the different species of provision, which have been made for our support and comfort: For the degree of health, which the people of this State have enjoyed in the course of the year: For the success which He has granted to our Commerce, Manufactures, and Fisheries; and for all the temporal blessings, which He has conferred upon us; and especially for His grace and condescension manifested in the redemption of mankind, by the death of His Son, and the hopes of future happiness which we are permitted to entertain in and through him.

AND while we joyfully recount the divine mercies shown to us the past year, and sing praises to God, who has been our strength and salvation; let us remember with penitence how unworthy we have been of those mercies, and acknowledge, even in the most alarming convulsion of the elements, the goodness, and forbearance of that Being who hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm; and let us beseech Him that by the influences of his Spirit He would unite our

affections in His service; and dispose us to enjoy with thankfulness the blessings He has bestowed on us, and not suffer us wantonly to abuse the gifts of His Providence by excess, or prodigality in the use of them: That the benefits we receive, and a sense of our own unworthiness may lead us to a constant reference of all our enjoyments and hopes to His goodness and mercy; and that all our favorable circumstances may be improved by us, as additional obligations to gratitude and obedience, and conspire to fill our hearts with gladness, and our lips with praise.

THAT He would incline the Administration of the National Government to wise and pacific measures, and that all who are in places of authority may govern with clemency and justice: That He would smile upon our schools and seminaries of learning, and the various institutions which are adapted to enlarge the measure of knowledge and happiness: That Christians of every denomination may exercise mutual forbearance, and be disposed to cherish candid and charitable thoughts of each other, and by the purity of their lives, exhibit the religion of the Gospel in its undiminished lustre: That the people may be united and live in peace; and being supplied with the conveniences of life, may be ready with sympathy and kindness to relieve others in distress, and be solicitous to improve in all the branches of virtue and goodness.

AND let us intreat the Almighty, who has the kingdoms of the earth at his disposal, and distributes power and prosperity to whomsoever He pleases, and who displays the equity of His Providence in humbling ambitious and cruel men, and turning their wicked designs upon themselves; that He would establish and perpetuate the tranquility of the Christian world, and that He would hasten the glories of that more perfect state of His Church, which we are taught to expect in the latter times, when the heathen shall fear His name, and the Jews shall be gathered from their dispersions; when the Kingdoms of this world shall become the Kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and His dominion shall be as universal in extent, as it is everlasting in duration.

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

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, the Twenty-Fifth Day of October, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifteen, and in the Fortieth Year 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!