

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

James Sullivan, Esq.

*Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the
COMMONWEALTH AFORESAID.*

A PROCLAMATION,

For a Day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE, throughout the Commonwealth.

THE ALMIGHTY CREATOR and GOVERNOR of the Universe, is to be worshipped and adored by his rational creatures ; the exercise of this duty is their highest privilege.

OUR pious Ancestors, beholding with devotion and gratitude, the daily expressions of his mercy towards them, whilst they were surrounded with uncommon perils and dangers, consecrated one day, at the close of each year, for celebrating his praise, and acknowledging his ordinary support in the favourable course of the seasons, as well as for rendering thanks for the extraordinary interpositions of his Providence in their favour.

THIS has been handed down as an ordinance, from age to age ; and our obligations, at the present day, are as great as have existed in former years upon the generations we succeed.

I HAVE, therefore, thought fit to appoint ; and by and with the advice of the Council, do appoint, *THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF NEXT NOVEMBER, TO BE OBSERVED AS A DAY OF PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE, THROUGHOUT THIS COMMONWEALTH.*

AND I do earnestly recommend it, to the Ministers and People of the State, according to the pious and laudable example of their ancestors, to assemble themselves on that day, at their usual places of public worship, and there devoutly and sincerely to acknowledge their dependence on the most high God, for his creating goodness and sustaining mercies ; and there to thank and praise his high and holy name, for all his benefits ; more particularly

THAT he has marked out the place of our habitation, where the Gospel is enjoyed by all denominations of Christians, in the most perfect freedom of conscience, without persecution or restraint, every one having an equal right to worship God according to the dictates of his own reason.

THAT he put it into the hearts of our ancestors, and has continued the laudable emulation in their posterity, to make Literature and Science the public concern, and the encouragement of the Arts the peculiar care of the civil government.

THAT he inspired a band of patriots, whose names will be ever dear to their Country, with wisdom and firmness to declare the United States an independ-

ent nation ; and the great body of the people with courage and magnanimity to maintain the important declaration.

THAT he has given those States wisdom and prudence not only to form a system of government for each State, but discretion to all the States to establish a general government, by which they are firmly united and known as a nation.

THAT under the wise and prudent administration of our Presidents and Rulers, those Constitutions have been preserved to us without diminution or corruption.

THAT while the calamities of war have afflicted Europe, our President has been endowed with caution, wisdom and prudence, by which, under the superintendence of a kind Providence, our neutral position has been preserved to us in the blessings of peace.

THAT no epidemic contagious diseases have been allowed to distress or waste our Country.

THAT the Earth has been made to yield her increase, by which plenty has crowned the year from the field ; while our Commerce and Navigation have been attended with success and prosperity.

I FURTHER exhort the good people of this Commonwealth, to express their gratitude, by their munificence to the poor, on an idea that we are all brethren, the children of one Parent, even our Father who is in heaven ; and from whose unmerited bounty we derive all our enjoyments.

THAT to their gratitude they unite a true and sincere repentance, for those sins by which we are rendered so unworthy of the favours daily received from our Supreme Benefactor.

THAT they all unite ardently and sincerely to discourage intemperance and wickedness, and to encourage and promote piety, virtue, morality and religion, amongst the citizens of every denomination.

I RECOMMEND it to the people, to refrain from all labour and recreation, which may be incompatible with the solemnity of the day.

Given at the Council-Chamber, this Sixteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seven, and in the Thirty-Second year of the Independence of the United States of America.

JAMES SULLIVAN.

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

JONATHAN L. AUSTIN, *Secretary.*

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts !