

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.

IT having ever been the laudable usage of the people of this Commonwealth, to set apart one day annually, as a day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING and PRAISE, to express by solemn acts of devotion, the sense they have of the Divine favor for mercies received, and to supplicate the Author of every good and perfect gift, for hearts and tempers of mind to render them fit subjects of his needed blessings.

I HAVE thought fit to appoint, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, do hereby appoint, and set apart, THURSDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER NEXT, to be observed by the People of this Commonwealth, in solemn acts of Devotion, as a Day of PRAYER, PRAISE, and THANKSGIVING.— And I do invite and exhort the good People, of every order and denomination of Religion, to assemble on that day, in their usual places of Public Worship, and there, with holy fear, and humble recollection, to acknowledge their entire dependence on the ALMIGHTY SOVEREIGN of the Universe, for life and all its blessings; and to express their gratitude for the demonstration of his being and attributes in the works of Creation and Providence, and the more perfect revelation of himself in his Holy Word.

THAT while they publicly and devoutly recognize their entire dependence on HIM, they humbly implore of his Divine goodness, the supply of such things as are necessary for their comfortable subsistence; and especially that he would grant them contented minds and resigned hearts, in whatever circumstances and

situations his Providence may place them. That he will always have them in his holy keeping and perfect protection, so that all their ways may be directed by his wisdom. That they may exhibit in their lives, a perfect obedience to the Divine Law, as shall demonstrate their sincere desire that a regard to this law may become the governing principle of mankind.

THAT they earnestly beseech HIM to inspire the people with such sentiments of national honor, as shall cement and strengthen the Union of these States. That his merciful benediction may extend to all the labour of their hands. That all illegal and unjust or undue restraints may be removed from their Commerce, so that Agriculture and the Fisheries may prosper, and their Navigation again traverse the Ocean in safety. That a friendly intercourse with all the nations of the world may be established, and maintained with fairness and integrity.

THAT he would bless their University, their Colleges, and all their means of education.

THAT he would incline the hearts of all the people to promote the cause of virtue and religion, giving them zeal to exemplify and propagate the sublime principles and doctrines of the Gospel, so that this Divine Religion may have its due influence and effect.

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

*Given at the Council-Chamber, in Boston this Ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eight,
and in the Thirty-Third year of the Independence of the United States of America.*

JAMES SULLIVAN.

By his Excellency the Governor,
with the advice and consent of the Council. }

WM: TUDOR, *Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!