

Commonwealth of  Massachusetts.

By His Excellency

Increase Sumner, Esq.

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

## A PROCLAMATION

*For a Day of Public Thanksgiving.*

**I**N the course of the benevolent Providence of God, the Inhabitants of this Commonwealth, are advancing to the close of another year, supplied with the Necessaries, surrounded with the Comforts, and gratified with many of the Delights of Life: These favours demand sincere and fervent expressions of gratitude and praise to our great and constant Benefactor; from whose bountiful Hand all our mercies are derived. Influenced by these considerations, as well as by the usage of our Fathers—

**I have thought fit, to appoint a time for the commemoration** of the Divine Favours in a public and social manner, and for this useful and sacred purpose, I DO, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint THURSDAY, the *Twenty-Ninth* of NOVEMBER next, a day of Thanksgiving and Praise throughout this Commonwealth. Hereby calling on Ministers and People of every denomination, religiously to attend in their respective places of Public Worship, on the duties of the said Day, and with united hearts to offer to their great and merciful Benefactor, those sincere praises, which naturally flow from the hearts of a grateful and obedient People.

Under the Smiles of His Gracious Providence, the Earth, notwithstanding the rain was withheld for a season, has been made to yield a sufficient supply for our wants, and the efforts of the industrious Husbandman have, in a great degree, been rewarded. Under His influence our Fisheries have been prospered. Our Commerce, although greatly interrupted by the violence and rapacity of unreasonable men, has, in many instances, been attended with success. Under His protection, order and tranquillity continue to bless the Commonwealth. And although in His Holy Providence, a mortal, contagious Disease has been permitted, for a season, to afflict and distress our capital, yet, in His abundant mercy, He was pleased to set bounds to the progress of the Disorder, and the voice of health and plenty is now generally heard in our habitations. And through His goodness we continue to enjoy Constitutions of Civil Government, well-calculated to preserve and maintain our Rights, civil and sacred. And by His Favour, at a very interesting period of our Public Affairs, the important life and usefulness of the Chief Magistrate of the Union, have been continued. Notwithstanding our past impenitence, we are still indulged with the Christian Religion—A Religion so conducive to the Happiness of Man, in the present Life, whilst it supports the hope of the Believer in a Happy and Glorious State, in the world to come.

Whilst our Hearts are warmed with Gratitude for the distinguished Bounties of Providence, I do recommend the most sincere Confession of our Sins, and the most Earnest Supplications to the Great Author of all our Blessings, that we may testify the Gratitude of our Hearts, by the Obedience of our Lives. That through his Gracious Influence, Peace and Tranquillity may be restored on just and honorable Foundations. That as a people we may duly estimate the Value of the Freedom and Independence of the *United States*, and be ready to encounter every danger, in their just Defence. That He would be pleased so to direct the Administration of our Federal Government, as well as that of the different States in the Union, as that the true Interest, Honor and Independence of our Country may be firmly established. And that we, highly estimating our civil and religious Privileges, may have the firmness and resolution to stand fast in the Liberty, wherewith we have been made Free. That God would prosper the lawful works of our hands, protect our Trade, Navigation and Fisheries. And continue His smiles on the Officers and Students of our University, and other Seminaries of useful Learning. That He would graciously protect the *United States of America* from the Machinations of unreasonable men, and not suffer any weapon formed against them to prosper.

Whilst we contemplate with emotions of Gratitude the favours received from our Great Benefactor, it is recommended to remember with sympathy, our Friends in various parts of the *United States*, who have again been visited with contagious, mortal Sickness, and to beseech the Fountain of Mercies, that Health and Prosperity may be universally restored. Finally, to supplicate the Father of Mercies, that the Citizens of the *United States*, under the Influence of the Christian Religion, which inculcates the purest Principles, and animates to the most Benevolent Practice, may unite in discountenancing Impiety, Hypocrisy, and Injustice, and, by their example, endeavor to promote the cause of Virtue, Religion and the True Love of our Country.

I Do further Recommend to the Citizens of this Commonwealth to suspend such Labors and Recreations, as may not be consistent with the solemnity of the said Day.

*Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, this twenty-third day of October, in the year of our LORD, one thousand, seven hundred and ninety-eight, and in the twenty-third year of the INDEPENDENCE of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA.*

**INCREASE SUMNER.**

By his Excellency's Command, with the Advice and Consent of the Council.

JOHN AVERY, *Secretary.*

**God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!**