

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

**WILLIAM B. WASHBURN,**

**GOVERNOR:**

# **A PROCLAMATION**

FOR A DAY OF

## **PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.**

With the advice and consent of the Council, THURSDAY, the 27th day of November next, is hereby designated for observance by the people of this Commonwealth as a day of Thanksgiving to God the Creator and Preserver, for the favor shown unto us during the year. This public and united recognition and acknowledgment of human dependence upon Infinite Power is such a proper and dutiful act that we ought to be grateful for the adoption by the nation of a custom established by the earliest settlers of our Massachusetts Colonies. As we gather in our homes and our places of worship on the day appointed, let us specially remember with humble and hearty thanks,---

That we have been given another year of opportunity for doing good, and that such a large degree of health has generally prevailed among our citizens;

That most of our industries have prospered, that our storehouses are filled with an abundant harvest, and that we have suffered so little from the great fire in our chief city;

That broader and more systematic efforts than heretofore have been made to raise the fallen, comfort the distressed, succor the unfortunate, and rescue those who are pursuing careers of vice and crime;

That our country abides in the love of peace and concord, that there is a lively disposition among our people toward the reform of abuses, and that they manifest an enlarged purpose to secure the proper discharge of official trusts.

And as we offer up our thanksgivings, and petition that the stroke of financial disaster may fall lightly upon our heads, let us not forget to give tangible evidence that we remember the suffering and the needy, whose numbers are not likely to decrease during the winter near at hand. Let us cultivate that beneficent spirit which has its origin in the fountain of all good, and promote Christian fellowship by ministering to those of our neighbors on whom the burdens of life lie heavily. With gratitude for the mercies of the past, let us seek wisdom from above to guide us in the future, that our feet may be kept in the paths of rectitude, and that our days may be a blessing to ourselves and those with whom we associate.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this fifteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the ninety-eighth.

**WILLIAM B. WASHBURN.**

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,  
WITH THE ADVICE OF THE COUNCIL, }

*OLIVER WARNER, Secretary.*

*God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*