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## PROCLAMATION

FOR A GENERAL

## Thanksgiving

THROUGHOUT THIS STATE.

**A**T the commencement of the year we bowed our knee to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, with Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, humbly imploring the smiles of his indulgent Providence through the course of the successive seasons, his blessing on our civil and secular concerns, and his guardian care of the important interests of this new empire. It is our indispensable duty to return, at the close of the year, and give God the praise of the rich profusion of blessings with which we are surrounded, and bear witness to his character as a Prayer-hearing GOD.

I DO THEREFORE, with advice of COUNCIL, and agreeably to a vote of the GENERAL-COURT, issue this PROCLAMATION, hereby appointing THURSDAY the second Day of DECEMBER next, to be a Day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING throughout this State; and Ministers and People of every denomination are exhorted to assemble and devote a reasonable part of said day to public Worship, that all may as with one heart and one voice, celebrate the praises of their Supreme and All-bountiful Benefactor; that he has triumphed over our unworthiness, and against the force of all our ingratitude hath crowned the year with his goodness, causing the earth to yield her increase, and the trees of the field their fruit, giving a most happy season for perfecting and securing the latter Harvest, and following the blessing of Peace with that of Plenty, to replace the expenditures of a tedious war; that he has so far succeeded our Trade and Commerce, and been the health of his people's countenance and their God; that he has wiped off all traces of former subjection from this State, by establishing a new Constitution of Government, in which our Liberties civil and sacred are amply secured; that he has continued the lives of our Ambassadors at foreign Courts, and is giving us honour and respectability with the nations of the earth---Above all, that he is continuing to us the exalted privileges of the glorious Gospel which are able to make wise to salvation, and secure to the humble believer a glorious citizenship when States and Empires shall be no more.

AND while our hearts overflow with gratitude, and our mouths are filled with the praises of our Benefactor, let us offer our fervent prayer to a long-suffering and pardoning God, that he would graciously forgive our manifold aggravated offences, by his distinguished goodness lead us to repentance, and not suffer iniquity to prove our ruin; that he would bless all our public councils with wisdom and unanimity, diffuse a true spirit of patriotism through all ranks and orders of men, and inspire them with an ambitious regard to the national honour and interest; that he would dispose many to rise up for him against the evil-doer, and stand up for him against the worker of iniquity; that he would smile upon our Commerce, Navigation and Fishery, bless the labours of the labourer in every department, take the interest of Education and Literature under his nurturing hand, cause pure and undefiled Religion to revive and flourish, and fill the earth with the Glory of his great Name.

AND all servile Labour is forbidden on said day.

GIVEN at the Council-Chamber, in Portsmouth, the second day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, and of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United-States of America, the ninth.

By his Excellency's command,  
E. THOMPSON, Secretary.

M. W E A R E.