

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN BROOKS,

GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

A PROCLAMATION,

For a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer.

THE innumerable mercies and blessings which the great Ruler of the world and Disposer of events, has been pleased to vouchsafe, in the course of his providence, to the people of this State, the past year, demand their best tribute of praise and gratitude.

I have therefore, in conformity to ancient usage, thought fit to appoint, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, I do hereby appoint THURSDAY, the Fourth Day of December next, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth, as a Day of Praise and Thanksgiving to God, the Father of lights, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift. And the people of all religious denominations, are requested to assemble in their respective places of public worship, on that day, that with united and devout affection, we may acknowledge our dependence upon the Divine favor, and present a willing offering to the Lord, the source of all our mercies; more especially that, when the hearts, not only of this people, but of a large proportion of the civilized world, were sinking within them, from an apprehension of scarcity and want, He has been graciously pleased to manifest his great benignity, in granting us a favorable seed time; in blessing and rewarding the labors and toils of the husbandman, in causing the earth to yield its increase, and giving us occasion to rejoice in the fulness of the former, and of the latter harvest: That He has been pleased to grant signal success to our fisheries, and permitted us to partake largely of the abundance of the seas: That our navigation and commerce have experienced so great a degree of safety and success: That He has been pleased to preserve us from wasting sickness, and all other desolating judgments: That our Nation has been preserved in peace and internal tranquillity, and in the enjoyment of a high degree of social happiness; and that the year has been richly crowned with the goodness of God: But above all, that, in infinite compassion to us as

sinners, He has seen fit to continue to cheer, to animate, and bless us with the light, the influences, and the hopes of the Gospel.

And while our hearts are warmed with gratitude to our Heavenly Benefactor, for his countless mercies, let us penitently confess our unworthiness, and with humility, implore the pardon of all our offences against Him, through the mediation of His Son JESUS CHRIST, who having tasted death for every man, was made perfect through suffering, and became the author of eternal salvation to all them who obey him; and that, christianity may more and more display its power to correct the errors and to control the passions of men: That God will be pleased to bless the President of the United States, and have him under His holy keeping: That He will afford His influence in the deliberations of Congress, and the Governments and Legislatures of the several States in the Union: That He will order the approaching winter in much mercy to the people of this State, especially to the poor and friendless, and that those into whose lap the Almighty hath plentifully showered the good things of this life, may be disposed proportionably to do good and communicate: That He will shed the best of his blessings upon our Judges and Magistrates, upon the Ministers of Religion, upon our University, and our Colleges, upon our Schools, and the rising generation: That He will regard with complacency, and aid by his providence, all endeavors to invigorate and exalt the intellectual and moral powers of man: That vice and irreligion may be subverted by the power of truth, that the sun of righteousness may be a light to the whole earth, and that all flesh may see the salvation of God.

And I recommend it to the people, to refrain from all labour and amusements, which may interrupt or be inconsistent with the solemnities of the said day.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this Twenty-Ninth Day of October, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventeen, and in the Forty-Second of the Independence of the United States of America.

JOHN BROOKS.

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

ALDEN BRADFORD, Secretary.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!