

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by His Excellency John Brooks,
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a proclamation, for a
day of public thanksgiving and prayer : ... Thursday, the twenty-eighth day
of November next ... Given at the Council chamber, in Boston, this eighth
day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
sixteen ... / John Brooks, Alden Bradford, Secretary.**

Contributors

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

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 continued smiles of Divine Providence upon the people of this State since the Public Thanksgiving of the last year, having laid them under additional obligations of gratitude and praise to God, the source of all their mercies and the giver of every good and perfect gift :

I have thought fit to appoint, and, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, I do hereby appoint, THURSDAY, the Twenty-Eighth day of November next, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth, as a day of Praise and Thanksgiving to God, for the renewed and multiplied instances of His providential care and beneficence they have experienced in the course of the last year. And the people of all religious denominations are invited, and earnestly requested, to assemble on that day, conformably to the example of our fathers, in their respective places of public worship, gratefully and devoutly to acknowledge the Divine favor and munificence : In that the Supreme Disposer of our destinies and of all events, has preserved our lives, and so far prospered our agriculture and fisheries as to afford the cheering hope of a competent supply of the necessities of life : That the people have so generally been blessed with health in their habitations, and large measures of social and individual happiness : That our Constitutions of Government, and our civil and religious privileges are continued to us ; and that He has guided our Nation in the way of peace.

And while with one voice we reverently offer to the God of our fathers and the fountain of all good, the sacrifice of thanksgiving, may we be suitably affected with a consciousness of our own demerit ; and to an ingenuous confession of ingratitude to our Heavenly Benefactor, of listlessness to our duty, and frequent violations of it, let us add fervent and sincere, as well as united supplications to the Throne of Grace, for the remission of all our transgressions, upon the terms of the Gospel, as revealed and offered to us by Jesus Christ, who hath once appeared to put away sin by one offering, the sacrifice of himself ; and that we, being made partakers of the light and hope of the Gospel,

may be filled with the fruits of righteousness ; with that wisdom that is pure, peaceable and gentle, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy :—That God will be pleased to preserve us from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and from the destruction that wasteth at noon day : That He will bless and prosper all the lawful enterprizes and the daily secular employments of the people : That He will have mercy on the poor and supply them with bread : giving them withal patience and resignation under the Divine allotments : That He will inspire the affluent with sentiments of benevolence and liberality, and make them rich in the works of charity and beneficence : That He will vouchsafe to regard with His special favour, the interests of Religion, and grant to the Christian Church a succession of able and faithful teachers : That He will be pleased to take our nation into His most holy keeping, and exalt it by righteousness : That He will bless the President of the United States, guide the deliberations of the National and State Legislatures, and continue peace in our borders : That He will preserve the union of the States, and delight to build us up, and make us a virtuous and a happy people : That He will smile upon and render eminently useful our University and Colleges ; bless our Schools ; and guide with tokens of His parental kindness, the rising generation : That He will graciously condescend to succeed and prosper the efforts of all societies and individuals, designed and adapted to mitigate the evils incident to human life—to strengthen and confirm the principles of social order—to enlarge and multiply the means of attaining moral and intellectual excellence—to discountenance and suppress vice—to place the Bible in the hands of the poor and needy, and to diffuse the knowledge of the sacred Scriptures among all the unbelieving and idolatrous nations of the world ; and that the benign religion of the Prince of Peace, being universally disseminated through the earth, may take deep root in the human heart, and become exclusively the religion of man.

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 Eighth Day of October, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixteen, and in the Forty-First 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 !