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# A Proclamation for a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise

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STATE OF



MAINE.

BY ALBION K. PARRIS,

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MAINE:

# A PROCLAMATION,

*For a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise.*

THE voice of civil authority can never be more beneficially, nor more honorably employed than in echoing the commands of that Legislator, whose dominion is universal and supreme, and from whom all authority is derived. If it may ever speak with confidence, if it may ever claim to be regarded, it is when inculcating duties which He has enjoined. As He has made it the duty of His rational creatures "to enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise," a compliance with the custom, long since established by our ancestors, of appointing a day annually for the public and united performance of this duty, cannot need either warrant or apology. We cannot, indeed, expect to discharge in a day, the debt of gratitude which is due for the mercies of a year. The favours, which we daily receive as individuals, demand daily thankful returns. But as the members of a civil community compose one political body united by various ties, and as they are indebted to Him, on whom nations, no less than individuals depend, for many blessings in which they have a common interest; it seems highly proper that they should occasionally unite in more public and solemn acknowledgments of His goodness.

I have, therefore, thought fit to appoint, and with the advice of the Council, do hereby appoint **THURSDAY, THE TWENTIETH DAY OF NOVEMBER NEXT**, to be observed by the inhabitants of this State, as a **Day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise**. And they are requested to assemble on that day in their respective places of religious worship, that we may, with united and grateful hearts "give unto God the glory which is due to His Name," and acknowledge in a suitable manner, the unnumbered mercies which He has bestowed on us the past year.

In the name of that "One Mediator" through whom all our blessings flow, let us offer Him our most hearty thanks, that while the dispensations of His Providence during this period have been strikingly adapted to convince us of our entire dependence on His sovereign will, and of the ease with which He can strip us of all our possessions; they no less clearly exhibit His unwillingness to exert His power for that purpose, and His readiness "in the midst of wrath" to "remember mercy"; that though His afflicting hand has fallen heavily on some portions of this State, with whose suffering inhabitants it becomes us affectionately to sympathize, the State at large has been preserved from desolating calamities; that when conflagration was spreading on the wings of the wind and threatening wide devastation, He was pleased to arrest its progress, and to incline many not only in this State, but in our sister States to contribute liberally for the relief of the sufferers; that though the labours of the husband-

man have been less abundantly rewarded than in some former years, He has granted us a sufficiency of the fruits of the earth, and smiled upon our Commerce, Manufactures and Fisheries; that our civil rights and privileges remain unimpaired, and our Literary Institutions continue to flourish; and above all, that we are still permitted to enjoy the inestimable blessings of the Gospel; that so many exertions have been made to impart these blessings to our destitute fellow-creatures, and that He has been pleased to crown these exertions with such a measure of success.

And as He requires us to unite confession and supplication with our thanksgivings, let us while gratefully acknowledging these undeserved favours, penitently confess our own abuse of them, together with the other numberless offences, which have justly provoked Him to withhold from us still greater blessings, and beseech Him for the sake of His Son, to pardon our transgressions, and turn us from our iniquities; to remember in mercy those of our fellow-citizens whom He has afflicted; to grant us the continued enjoyment of those civil, literary and religious privileges which we have forfeited; to inspire with wisdom and fidelity all who are entrusted with the care of these privileges, and to crown with His blessings all the means of moral and religious improvement with which we are favored.

Extending our concern to the interests of our common country, let us present our supplications in behalf of these United States, intreating that God who has so long bestowed His favours upon them with an unsparing hand, that He will still be pleased to rejoice in their prosperity; to preside in their National Councils; to preserve and bless their Chief Magistrate, and all others who are entrusted with the administration of the General and State Governments, and to grant that a spirit of harmony, order and regard to the interests of morality and religion may pervade our Country, and that the returns, which He receives from us as a Nation, may correspond with our obligations to His goodness.

Embracing in the arms of an expansive benevolence all our fellow-creatures, let us beseech the Universal Parent to look down in mercy upon His great Family; to compassionate their sorrows, supply their wants, and unite them all to Himself and to each other in the bonds of His Holy Religion; to bless and increase the efforts which are made to effect this most desirable object, and to hasten the time when "there shall be one Lord over all the earth," and when all its inhabitants shall unite "with one mind and one mouth" to "glorify God" through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

And the inhabitants of this State are requested to abstain from all labor and recreation inconsistent with the services of that day.

*GIVEN at the Council Chamber in Portland, the third day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three; and in the forty-eighth year of the Independence of the United States of America.*

Albion K. Parris.

BY THE GOVERNOR:

AMOS NICHOLS, *Secretary of State.*