

A HYMN OF

THANKSGIVING

BY

IRA D. SANKEY

FANNY J. CROSBY

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PAUL WEST



# A HYMN OF THANKSGIVING.

"Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving."—Psa. 147:7.

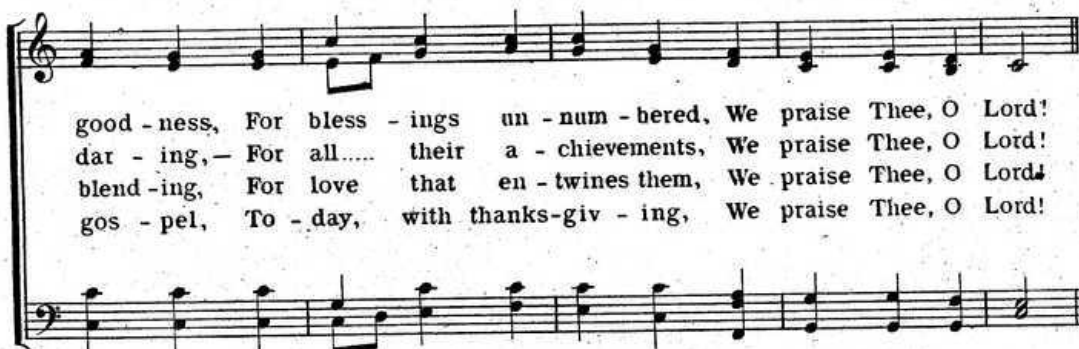
Fanny J. Crosby.

Ira D. Sankey.

1. For a boun - ti ful har - vest And its bright, gold en  
2. For the flag that is march - ing, Op - press - ion to  
3. For the ships on the o - cean, Our..... com - merce ex  
4. For the greet - ings of friend - ship From our kin o'er the

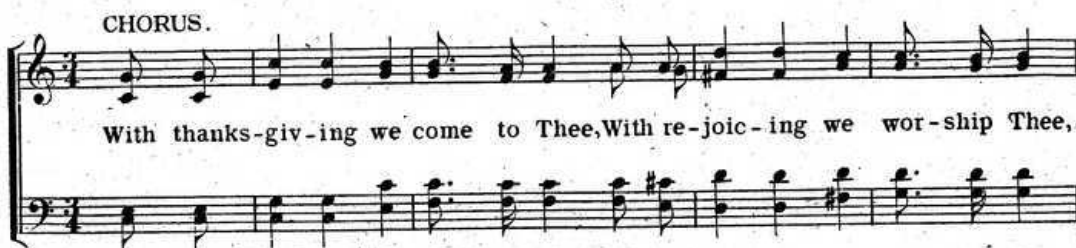
treas - ures, That bring to the reap - er A prom - ised re -  
con - quer, For peace that in tri - umph Will soon be re -  
tend - ing, For plow - share and sic - kle, In - stead of the  
bil - low, For words of as - sur - ance That oft we have

- ward, For the year that so rich - ly Is crowned with Thy  
- stored; For our sol - diers and sail - ors, Brave - heart - ed and  
sword; For the North and the South Land In har - mo - ny  
heard; For the na - tions u - ni - ted For Christ and His



good - ness, For bless - ings un - num - bered, We praise Thee, O Lord!  
dar - ing, - For all..... their a - chievements, We praise Thee, O Lord!  
blend - ing, For love that en - twines them, We praise Thee, O Lord!  
gos - pel, To - day, with thanks - giv - ing, We praise Thee, O Lord!

CHORUS.



With thanks - giv - ing we come to Thee, With re - joic - ing we wor - ship Thee,



For the full - ness of bless - ings free, That crown - eth the year.



1621

# The American Thanksgiving

1899



When GOVERNOR BRADFORD, in 1621, immortalized himself by inventing THANKSGIVING DAY, he also provided his people with a good dinner to be thankful for.

After issuing the first THANKSGIVING Proclamation, the occasion for which was a bountiful harvest after a long term of famine, he sent four doughty hunters into the woods for game, so that all the community might feast royally.

They returned, these PURITAN woodsmen, laden down with wild turkeys—and that one fact explains a great deal about a popular AMERICAN institution, leading up to BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S suggestion many a year later, that the turkey should be made the national emblem instead of the eagle. Not on turkey alone did those original THANKSGIVING revellers dine. They were joined by a large band of friendly Indians, who contributed to the feast many a haunch of venison and bags upon bags of oysters.

THANKSGIVING as an institution had many ups and downs after that. When the Dutch of NEW AMSTERDAM adopted it they converted the day into one of meditation and prayer, forbidding all forms of enjoyment, and quite ignoring the festival idea. The Puritans, on the other hand, kept on eating turkey and other good things on THANKSGIVING DAY in order to discourage people from observing CHRISTMAS, of which they had a hatred.

For the same reason the THANKSGIVING season was established at the threshold of winter, and although a change to the more gracious autumn days has often been advocated, custom has proved stronger than reason in this respect.

As a national institution, THANKSGIVING began in 1777, when the Continental Congress recommended the States to direct a general observance of a day of "solemn THANKSGIVING and praise." This was just after the surrender of Burgoyne.

GOVERNOR JOHN JAY in 1795 inaugurated THANKSGIVING as an annual festival in this State, and—such is the irony of fate!—was bitterly abused for his pains.



## Washington's Proclamation, 1785.

By the President of the United States of America.  
A PROCLAMATION.

1621.  
Behind him, in the land from whence he came,  
The memory of Persecution's hood;  
Before him, Freedom's torch, whose glowing flame  
Points out the way to unfold joys beyond.  
For this he knelt, the Puritan, to pray,  
Long time ago, that first Thanksgiving Day.



WHEN we review the calamities which affect so many other Nations, the present condition of the United States affords much matter of consolation and satisfaction. Our exemption hitherto from foreign war, an increasing prospect of the continuance of that exemption, the great degree of internal tranquillity we have enjoyed, the recent confirmation of that tranquillity by the suppression of an insurrection which so wantonly threatened it, the happy course of our public affairs in general, the unexampled prosperity of all classes of our citizens—are circumstances which peculiarly mark our situation with indications of the Divine Beneficence towards us. In such a state of things it is, in an especial manner, our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God and to implore him to continue and confirm the blessings we experience.

Deeply penetrated with this sentiment, I, GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States, do recommend to all Religious Societies and Denominations, and to all persons whomsoever within the United States, to set apart and observe Thursday, the nineteenth day of February next, as a day of public Thanksgiving and prayer, and on that day to meet together and renew their sincere and hearty thanks to the great ruler of Nations for the manifold and signal mercies which distinguish our lot as a Nation; particularly for the possession of Constitutions of Government which unite and by their union establish liberty with order, for the preservation of our peace, foreign and domestic, for the reasonable control which has been given to a spirit of disorder in the suppression of the late insurrection, and generally for the prosperous course of our affairs public and private; and at the same time humbly and fervently to beseech the kind author of these blessings graciously to prolong them to us—to imprint on our hearts a deep and solemn sense of our obligations to him for them—to teach us rightly to estimate their immense value—to preserve us from the arrogance of prosperity and from hazarding the advantages we enjoy by delusive pursuits—to dispose us to meet the continuance of his favors, by not abusing them, by our gratitude for them, and by a correspondent conduct as citizens and as men—to render this country more and more a safe and propitious asylum for the unfortunate of other countries—to extend among us true and useful knowledge—to diffuse and establish habits of sobriety, order, morality and piety, and finally to impart all the blessings we possess, or ask for ourselves, to the whole family of mankind.

G. Washington

1899.  
The years have passed, but still to-day he stands,  
The stalwart Puritan's as stalwart son.  
Ready for all that Freedom's cause demands,  
Brave in defeat and calm in victor's woo.  
This is the sort of man that makes for age  
Hearts beat with pride on our Thanksgiving Day.

