



Dr. *Colman's*

S E R M O N

To the Honourable

Artillery Company.

June 5. 1738.



CHRIST *standing for an* ENSIGN
of the People.

2

A
S E R M O N

preached to the *Honourable* and *Ancient*

ARTILLERY COMPANY

in Boston,

June 5. 1738.

Being the *Day* of the Finishing their
first Century.

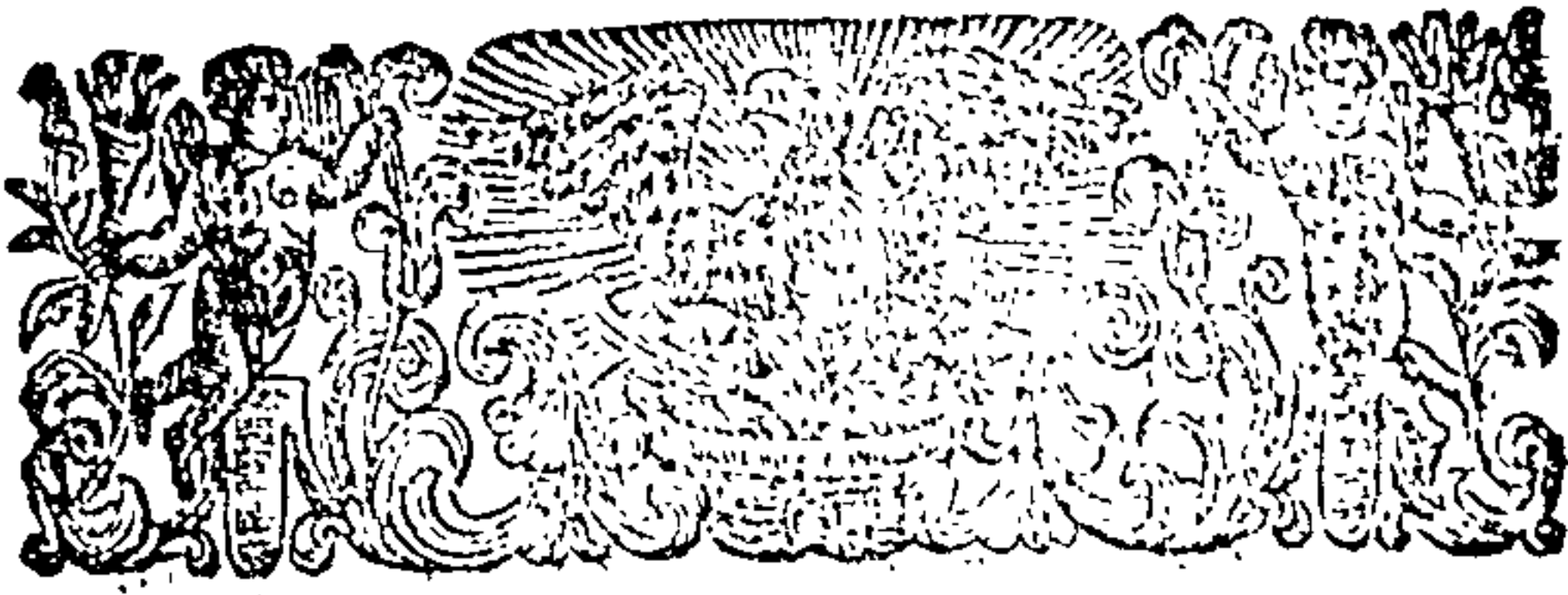
By *Benjamin Colman, D. D.*

Published at the Desire of many of the *Hearers.*

Exod. xvii. 15. *The LORD my Banner.*

B O S T O N :

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CHRIST *standing*
for an ENSIGN of the People!



Isaiah xi. 10.

And in that Day there shall be a Root of Jesse, which shall stand for an Ensign of the People; to it shall the Gentiles seek, and his Rest shall be glorious.



THE whole Chapter is a most noble and illustrious Prophecy of the wise and peaceful, victorious and triumphant Reign of the Messiah. It is the Person of Jesus, the Son of David, the Son of Jesse, in the Offices and Benefits of our Lord Redeemer, that is here *displayed* under the Similitude of an *Ensign*, Standard and Banner, unto them that *fear* him and because of the *Truth*.

He,

HE, the * *Head of the Body, the Church, who also bears on his Shoulders * the Government of the whole World, is the Rod from the Stem of Jesse, v. 1. and also the Root of Jesse, which is the greater Dignity, born in my Text. He is both the Root and Offspring of David: Rev. xxii. 16. In his Divine Nature the Root, in his Humane the Branch or Offspring; Immanuel, God with us; " in two distinct Natures and one Person for ever.*

In the second *Verse* of the Chapter his Glory is display'd as the ANOINTED; anointed with the HOLY SPIRIT in his immeasurable Gifts and Graces; " *The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and Might, the Spirit of Knowledge and of the Fear of the Lord; and shall make Him of quick Understanding*" therein, — which is the highest Accomplishment of every Prince, or Commander in Chief or Subordinate; for then " *Righteousness will be the Girdle of their Loyns, and Peace the Blessing of their Rule and Command; which is the Abstract of my Context.*

You see then, my *Fathers and Brethren, Fellow-Soldiers* under the *one Ensign and Standard of CHRIST, Whom we Gentiles are to be looking, seeking and gathering unto; that his Rest may be glorious in us as a part of his Church, and ours in Him, whose Banner over us is Love. Cant. ii. 4.* You see your King and General, the *Captain of your Salvation, and are now in his Presence, to behold*

* The two *Subjects* of the public *Sermons*, preached the Week before, to the *Convention of Ministers* by the *Rev. Mr. Barnard*, and to the *General Court* by *Mr. Webb*.

his *Glory*, to hear his *Word* of Command, and to seek his Favour and Protection. The *Armies* of Heaven follow Him, and bless Him all ye his *Hosts*, ye *Ministers* of his that do his Pleasure; with all his *Works*, in all Places of his *Dominion*; bless the LORD O our Souls †!

Could I possibly bring You, our Honoured Commanders, a more charming or more awful sight of our LORD and of his Church; to constrain your Duty to Him and his People! Look only with his Eyes upon the Part of his Church put under your Watch and Protection, and you will be constrained to take up his Words of Transport and Rapture; Cant. vi. 4, 10, 13. "Thou art beautiful, O my Love, as Tirzah; comely as Jerusalem, terrible as an Army with Banners! turn away thine Eyes from me, for they have overcome me! — Who is She that looketh forth as the Morning, fair as the Moon, clear as the Sun, and terrible as an Army with Banners? — Or ever I was aware, my Soul made me like the Chariots of Ammi-nadib. Return, return, O Shulamite, that we may look upon thee! What will ye see in the Shulamite? as it were the Company of two Armies: Mahanaim; the two Hosts of Angels guarding the Church in Jacob's House; or rather Jews and Gentiles united under the Banner of Christ, a Vision but little lower than that of Angels.

Forgive me this Excursion in the beginning of my Discourse, my Reverend Hearers; and You Gentlemen in Arms, who have on a sudden press'd

† Rev. xix. 14. Psalm ciii. 20, 21, 22.

4 CHRIST standing for

me to speak my *last* to you, when others have fail'd you.

It is now almost *forty Years* ago that I spake to your *Fathers* in this *Place*, and on this *Solemnity*; and I then led 'em to *JESUS*; to the *Faith* in Him, whereby the heroic *Saints* of old Time *subdued Kingdoms* ||, wro't *Righteousness*, obtained *Promises*, out of *Weakness* were made *Strong*, waxed *valiant in Fight*, and turned to *Flight* the *Armies of the Aliens*. It is the *Will of Christ*, my *Brethren*, that *They* without *Us* should not be made *perfect*; and therefore I would now *finish* as I *began*, and lead you *again* to your *standing Colours*, *CHRIST* your *Ensign*; (the *Alpha* and *Omega*, the *Beginning* and the *Ending*, the *first* and the *last*; which *is*, and which *was*, and which *is to come*, the *Almighty*! the *same yesterday, to Day and for ever*;) And I doubt not but you will *gladly* be led *again* and *again* to *Him*, the glorious *Object* of your *saving Faith*, the *Author* and the *Finisher* thereof.

Now then, my *Brethren*, To your *Leader and Standard*! to your *Ensign* and *Banner*! to your *Lord and Saviour*, to whom the *Apostle* (after *David* * and *Isaiab*) directs your *Hearts* and *Eyes*, repeating my *Text*, *Rom. xv. 10, 11, 12. Rejoyce ye Gentiles with his People! praise the Lord ye Gentiles, and laud him all ye People! as Esaias saith,*
“ *There shall be a Root of Jesse, and He shall rise to*
“ *reign over the Gentiles, in Him shall the Gentiles*
“ *trust.*

|| *Heb. xi. 33. Anno 1702. Primitiæ Juventutis, et Senectutis Fructus. Psalm lxxi. 17, 18. xcii. 14, 15. * Psalm xx and xxi.*

an ENSIGN of the People. §

See then your present pleasurable *Work*, my happy *Hearers*! it is to contemplate your SA-
VIOUR under *this* Similitude and *Comparison*, the
ENSIGN for your *Souls* to gather to.

It is no empty *Flourish* you are invited to! it
is JESUS in his saving *Offices* and *Benefits* you are
come forth to see! “ *behold Him, behold Him!*
red in his Apparel, with died Garments from Boz-
rab! travelling in the *Greatness* of his *Strength!*
speaking in *Righteousness* and *mighty to save!*
“ *Look to Him* and be *saved*, all the *Ends* of the
Earth †!

1. He is the *Ensign* and *Standard* set up from
Everlasting, in the eternal *Counsel* and *Decree* of
God; from the *Beginning* or ever the *Earth* was;
the *FATHERS* everlasting *Delight* and *rejoicing* in
the habitable Parts of the *Earth*; these *Parts* of it,
which He then saw and ordained to be inhabited
by *our Fathers*. **Prov. viii. 23, 31.**

And this royal *Standard* of Heaven was *first*
displayed on Earth, to the *Confusion* of *Devils* and
the everlasting *Wonder* and *Praises* of *Angels* and
Men, in that glorious *Revelation* and *Promise* to
our *first Parents*, **Gen. iii. 15.** “ **A SEED** of the
Woman to *break the Serpents Head*, with his *bruised*
Heel:

Heaven then held out the *Flag* of *sovereign*
Grace, with *these Words* written on it; this *Figure*
drawn thereon, “ *A Serpent* peircing the *Heel* of
a *Godlike Man*, but his *Head* crush'd by it. The

† **Isaiah lxiii. 1, 2. xlv. 21.**

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Standard bore the *Image* of God's dear *Son*, in our *Nature*, treading the *Dragon*, the *Devil* and *Satan*, into *Hell*; from off that *Dust*, where it had *crawl'd* and rear'd its poisonous *Head*.

Indeed our *Saviour* is the *Ensign* lift up thro' the whole *written Word*, and display'd from *Sabbath* to *Sabbath*, in the preached *Gospel*. He is lifted up *on high* by *Moses* and the *Prophets*, and by the inspired *Apostles* of the *New Testament*; and after them, all the *Ministers* of *Christ* in all his *Churches*, thro' the whole *Earth* and to the *End* of *Time*, are *Standard-bearers*; to bear his *Name* and *Truth*, his *Law* and *Covenant*, his *Promises* and *Threatnings*, unto *all People*. We preach *Christ* crucified, buried, risen, ascended and reigning at the *Fathers* right *Hand*, and coming again in the *Clouds* of *Heaven*. He was *lift up* as an *Ensign* on the *Cross*, and from the *Grave* in his *Resurrection*, and yet more in his *Exaltation* to the right *Hand* of *Power*! *Christ* the *Power* of *God* and the *Wisdom* of *God*, and the *Righteousness* of *God* for us.

2. An *Ensign* is a *conspicuous* thing; to be *look'd on*, *seen*, *beheld* and *consider'd*; and such is *Christ*.

This is the gracious *Evangelical Phrase*, "*Looking to Jesus*"*! the gracious *Gospel Precept*, "*behold me, behold me!*" and the gracious *constraining Promise*, "*they shall look upon Him whom they have pierced.*"

Strong is the *Eye* of *Faith*, and the *Hand* of *Prayer*, to *reach* the highest *Heaven*, and bring

* Hab. xii. 2. Isai. lxy. 1. Zech. xii. 10.

down

down *Salvation* from the exalted *Jesus*. We must look and *admire*, look and *love*, look and *ascend* to Him on the Wings of strong *Desire* and un-failing *Faith*. He has said, *John xii. 32.* “ *And I, if I be lifted up from the Earth, will draw all Men to me.* Amen, **GLORIOUS LORD!**

From *Heaven* we also look for Him again, in *Power* and great *Glory*. The *Angels* of *Jesus* bid the *Disciples* do so in the *Hour* of his *Ascension*: *Acts i. 11.* *Ye Men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? this same Jesus which is taken up into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven.*

Without *Controversy* great is this *Mystery* of *Godliness*, the *Visions* of the *Son of Man* as in the *Glories* of the *Only-begotten* of the *Father*: *1 Tim. iii. 16.* *God was manifest in the Flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of Angels, preached to the Gentiles, believed on in the World, received up to Glory.*

3. The *Standard* is set up, and the *Ensign* display'd, for *People* to *gather unto*, and such is *Christ*. To Him shall the *Gentiles seek*; says my *Text*, and after it the *Prophet* goes on, *He shall set up an Ensign to the Nations, and gather the dispersed of Judah, and assemble the Outcasts of Israel.*

This was the *Ancient* and famous *Promise*, in the *Prophecy* concerning *Judah*, and the *Blessing* wherewith his *Father* blessed him! *Gen. xlix.* “ *The Sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor*
“ *a Lawgiver from between his Feet, until Shi-*
“ *loh come; and unto Him shall the Gathering*
“ *of the People be.*

This is the first Meaning and *Use* of the *Standard*, for summoning and inviting Persons to *inlist* themselves, and for the *assembling* of the *inlisted*. The *Tribes of Israel*, in their Incampments and Marches thro' the *Wilderness*, had each their own *Standard*, and they pitched about their own *Ensign*; Numb. ii. 2. "Every one by his own
 "Standard, with the Ensign of their Fathers
 "House. This made their *Camp* look beauteous and yet terrible in their Order and Array :
 "How goodly were thy Tents, O Jacob! as the Valleys were they spread forth, and as Gardens by the Rivers side: He couched, he lay down as a Lion, and who dare stir him up? Numb. xxiv. 5, 9.

The *Spirit of Prophecy* in after Times speaks of *this Use* of the *Ensign* ||; to call the *Nations* from far, and to *hiss* to 'em from the *Ends* of the Earth; to come with *speed* swiftly, with their *Loyns girt* ! And thus runs the *Burden of Babylon*; "Lift ye up the *Banner* upon the high Mountain, exalt the *Voice* to 'em, and shake the *Hand*, to go up to her *Gates*: "I have commanded my *sanctified Ones*, I have called my *mighty Ones*, &c.

The *Gospel* is preached to the *Nations* for this very *End*, to enter them in a *War* against *Sin* and *Satan*, and for the *Defence* and *Support* of the *Kingdom of Christ*, his *Truths* and *Ways*, *People* and *Worship*. We gather to Him as our *Ensign* by our *Profession* of Faith in his Name, by our *assembling* to *Worship* from one *Lords-day* unto another, in his appointed *Ways*. Of *Him* the whole *Family* in *Heaven* and *Earth* are named.

|| Mai. v. 26, 27. xiii. 2, 3.

To his one *Altar* the *Tribes* go up, to give *Thanks* to his Name, to Worship the Lord in the *Beauties of Holiness*. — So the *Tabernacle* of the Lord stood in the *midst* of the encamped *Tribes*, and marched in the *midst* of them. The *Cloud*, the *Glory* and *Shechinah* was their *Standard*; when that *went* they did, when that *stood* they rested round about it. *Christ* was there with his *shining Hosts* of *Angels*, their *Guard* and *Conductors*. There were their holy *Convocations*, there was the holy *Law* deposited in the sacred *Ark*, and there stood the *Altars* of *Burnt-Offering* and *Incense*: There stood the golden *Table* with the *Shew-Bread*, and there hung the golden *Candlestick*, with the burning *Lights*. All was but a *Figure of Christ* in the *Flesh*, *enlightning* the *Multitudes* in the *Mount* with his heavenly *Doctrine*, *feeding* them with the *Bread of Life*, and then offering Himself a *Sacrifice* on the *Tree*. The *Day of Pentecost* was the famous *Time* of the *Ingathering* of *Jews* and *Gentiles* together: *Christ* was the *Ensign* lifted up in the *rushing Wind*, and *cloven Tongues*, and the *Thousands of Converts*; the *Tongues* were for gathering in the *Nations* to him. *Acts* ii. 32. “ This Jesus
 “ hath God raised up, whereof we are *Witnesses*!
 “ therefore being by the right *Hand* of *God* ex-
 “ alted, and having received of the *Father* the
 “ *Gift* of the *Holy Ghost*, he hath shed abroad
 “ this which ye see and hear: As it is written
 “ by *David*, “ The *Lord* said unto my *Lord*,
 “ Sit *Thou* at my right *Hand* until I make thy
 “ *Foes* thy *Footstool*: Therefore let all the
 “ *House of Israel* know assuredly, that *God* hath
 “ made that same *Jesus*, whom ye have crucified
 “ both *Lord* and *Christ*.” This *prick’d* ’em to
Heart, and made ’em *come in*; “ *Men and Bre-*
thren, what shall we do? In all *Christ* was the *En-*
sign, to gather in *Souls* to Himself.

4. The Standard and Ensign is *for Union*, for the gather'd People to *unite* under ; to unite in *Affection* and to join their *Strength* ; and such is *Christ* to his Church.

There is *one Lord*, and *one Body* ; *one Faith* and *one Baptism*. All *Christians* declare themselves to be as *one*, and *bind* themselves to be so. They list in *one Cause*, and engage in *one Design*, which is *Christ's*. John xi. 52. *That he should gather together in One the Children of God which are scatter'd abroad*. They gather to Him as their common Lord and General, to his *Colours* ; or if you will into *his Fold* ; for there is *one Fold* and *one Shepherd*. One is the *Head*, Christ, and the many *Members* are *one Body* ; animated by *one Spirit*, and having the *same Care* one of another *. *Christ* is the *Centre of Unity* to his People ; the *Faith and Love* in Him is the *Band and Means* of it. What He *ask'd* of the *Father* for his *Chosen*, that his *Apostle* declares to be *granted*, and true in fact : He pray'd for them, *That they may be One, one in Us, as Thou Father art in Me and I in Thee* : This the *Apostle* affirms of true Believers, *Ye are all One in Christ Jesus*. As we read of the *Multitude* of the *first Believers*, that *they were of one Heart and of one Soul*. Acts iv. 32. So *Soldiers* are one, an *Army* is one ; and their *Unity* like the *Form of a Phalanx*, is their *Force and Strength* ; to *bear down* all before them.

5. The Standard, Ensign and *Flag* of the *King* or *State* is for the *Protection of the Subject* ; and such is *Christ* to his Church, its almighty *Protector* and

* Eph. iv. 5. i. 10. 1 Cor. xii. 13. x. 17. Gal. iii. 28.
John x. 16. Col. i. 18. 1 Cor. xii. 25. John xvii. 21.
Defence.

Defence. We repair to Him for *Salvation*, and nothing less; we *flee* to Him and are *safe*. He is our *King*, and shall *save* us. His Name is *Jehovah-nissi*, the *Lord our Banner!* the *Lord our Righteousness*. Write *this* on our *One Altar and Sacrifice*. This Name of our God and Saviour defend us! send us *Help* from his *Sanctuary*, and strengthen us out of *Sion!* we will *rejoice* in his *Salvation*, and set up our *Banners!* Some trust in *Chariots* and some in *Horses*, but we will remember the *Name of the Lord our God!* Save *Lord*, let the *King* hear us when we call! Be thou *exalted*, Lord, in thy *own Strength*; so will we *sing* and praise thy *Power*. Psalm xx and xxi.

David, the *valiant* and the *warlike Prince*, had all his *Courage* and *Conduct inspir'd* from on High; and to *God alone* he looks and ascribes, and relies in *Raptures of Faith and Devotion*. Psalm xviii. "I will love thee, O Lord my
 "Strength; my Rock, my Fortrefs, my De-
 "verer! my God, my Strength, in whom I will
 "trust; my Buckler, and the Horn of my Sal-
 "vation, and my high Tower! I will call up-
 "on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, so
 "shall I be saved from my Enemies." Psal. xlv.
 4, — 8 "Thou art my King, O God; com-
 "mand Deliverances for Jacob: thro' Thee will
 "we push down our Enemies, thro' thy Name
 "will we tread them under that rise up against
 "us: For I will not trust in my Bow, nor shall
 "my Sword save me: But Thou hast saved us
 "from our Enemies, and hast put them to shame
 "that hated us: In God we boast all the Day
 "long, and Praise thy Name for ever." Psal.
 lxii. 5, — 8. "My Soul wait thou only upon
 "God, for all my Expectation is from Him: He
 only.

“ only is my Rock and my Salvation, He is my
 “ Defence, I shall not be moved : In God is my
 “ Salvation and my Glory, the Rock of my
 “ Strength, and my Refuge is in God : Trust in
 “ Him at all times ye People, pour out your
 “ Hearts before Him, God is a Refuge for us.”

Thus *David*, the Man after the *Heart* of God, the *Hero* of the Church ; in all his *Wars*, from his first facing the Giant *Goliath*, to his putting on the *Crown* of the King of *Rabbah*, dwelt ever in the *Secret* of the *Most High*, and abode under the *Shadow* of the *Almighty*, and said of the *Lord*, “ He is my *Refuge* and *Fortress* ; his *Truth* shall be my *Shield* and *Buckler*. *Psal.* xci. 1, 4. So the *Ensign* is for the *safety* of the *Subject* ; and happy the true *Subjects* and *Soldiers* of the merciful and faithful *Saviour*.

6. And lastly, The *Standard* and *Ensign* are more especially for a *Declaration of War*, a *Defiance* of *Enemies*, the *Conquest* of them and *Triumph* over them.

Christ has his *Enemies*, and *Souls* have theirs. His *Enemies* are *ours*, and the *Enemies* of our *Souls* are his. Against *these* the *Spirit of the Lord* prepar'd and rais'd a victorious *Standard* in the *Body of Jesus*, our atoning *Sacrifice* ||. He *triumph'd* over them on his *Cross*, *spoiling Principalities* and *Powers*, and making a *shew* of them openly. *Satan* like *Lightning* fell from *Heaven*, the *Prince* of *this World* was cast out.

We are all *listed* in this *spiritual Warfare*, and must be good *Soldiers*, fighting the good *Fight*, and

|| *Psal.* xl. 6. *Heb.* x. 5. *Col.* ii. 15. *Luke* x. 18.

resisting

resisting unto *Blood*, in striving against *Sin* *. We had need be *strong in the Lord* and in the Power of *his Might* ; and put on the *whole Armour of God*, that we may be able to stand against the *Wiles of the Devil*. For we *wrestle* not only against *Flesh and Blood*, but against *Principalities*, against *Powers*, against the *Rulers of the Darkness* of this World, against *spiritual Wickednesses in high Places*. Strength, Armour and Courage is provided for us, to put on, prove, wear and use. “ Wherefore (as the *Holy Ghost* saith) take to you the *Armour of God*, that ye may be able to *withstand* in the evil Day. Stand therefore having your *Loyns girt about with Truth*, and having on the *Breast-plate of Righteousness*, and your *Feet shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace* : Above all taking the *Shield of Faith*, the *Helmet of Salvation* and the *Sword of the Spirit*, which is the *Word of God* ; and *praying always with all Prayer and Supplication in the Spirit*. Good *Armour* truly for our *own Day of Rebuke and Blasphemy*, from the *Infidelity* of the *Enemies of Christianity*, who like *Rabshakey* reproach the *Living God* : Eno’ to make us cry out with the mourning *Prophet*, “ *My Bowels,* “ *my Bowels ! I am pained at my Heart ! because* “ *thou hast heard, O my Soul, this Alarm of* “ *War*. We must heartily *offer*, and engage on the *Side of Truth and Holiness*. The *Lord* has *sworn*, that He will have *War* with *Amalec* for ever. Our *Lusts*, and their *Confederates*, the *World and Devil*, are this *Amalec*. The *War* is for *Life*, and the *Lord* will *fight for us*. More are *with us* than with them. We go forth

1 Tim. i. 18. 2. ii. 3. 4. 1. vi. 12. 1. Cor. ix. 26.
2 Cor. x. 4. Heb. xii. 4. Eph. vi. 22.

in the Name of the *Lord of Hosts*, whom they *defy*. His *Ensign* is display'd against *Error* and *Vice*, Profaness and Impiety, our *own* and *others* Sins. *Jer. li. 25.* "Behold I am against thee, O thou that destroyest the Earth! Set ye up the Standard, blow the Trumpet, prepare the Nations, and *Babylon* shall be a Desolation."

The *Ensign* is of *various* Use in *War*: to strike the Enemy with *Terror*, to animate and inspire *Courage*, and to lead on to *Victory* and *Triumph*.

1. The *Ensign* is to *terrify the Enemy*. The Army in *Array* is made terrible by their *flying Colours*. They are *defying* and *threatning Signs*. They threaten *Death* and *Slaughter*, *Destruction* and *Desolation*. The Flag of *Christ*, from *Heaven*, is a *bloody Flag* to all his impenitent Enemies. It is the *Flag of Death*; the *second Death* is written on it in *black Capitals*; *Death spiritual and eternal!* *Death and Hell following it.* *Rev. vi. 8.*

We read of the *Garments of Vengeance for Cloathing*, which the *Redeemer* puts on, when he *repays Fury to his Adversaries*; and this is the *Standard* lift up against the *Enemy*, when he *comes in like a Flood*. *Isai. lix. 17, 19.* So *St. John* saw the *Heavens opened*, *Rev. xix. 11.* and behold a *white Horse*, and He that sat on it was called *Faithful and True*, and in *Righteousness* he makes *War*: His *Eyes* are as a *Flame of Fire*, and on his *Head* are *many Crowns*, and he is clothed with a *Vesture dipt in Blood*; and his *Name* is called, "The *Word of God*"; and out of his *Mouth* goeth a *sharp Sword* to smite the *Nations*, and He treadeth the *Winepress of the Fierceness and Wrath of Almighty God*: — and with a *loud Voice* he calls all the *Fowls of Heaven*, to eat
the

the Flesh of Kings, of Captains and of Mighty Men. This is the *Ensign* to strike the *Enemy* with *Terror*.

2. The *Ensign* *inspires* *Courage* and *animates* the *Host* to *Battel*. The flying *Colours* put *Life* into the *Soldier*, and lead him on *intrepid*. It bespeaks the *Host* and says, as our *Lord* does to us, “ Look
“ on me and do likewise ! Come on without
“ Fear ! Have not I commanded thee ? be strong
“ and of a good *Courage* : be not afraid or dif-
“ mayed, for the *Lord* thy *God* is with thee *.”

Christ can inspire *Fortitude* and *Strength*, to en-
dure *Hardness*, to resist unto *Blood*, to be *steadfast*
and *immovable*, and not draw the *hand back* that
stretches out the *Spear*. *Jesus* can make *Joshuas*,
and strengthen with *all* *Might* in the inner-man ;
yea out of *Weakness* he makes *Strong*. Luke x.
19. “ Behold I give unto you *Power* to tread on
“ *Serpents* and *Scorpions*, and over all the *Power*
“ of the *Enemy*. ” Accordingly read the *Con-*
fidence and *Defiance* of *Faith* in *Him*: Rom viii.
37, 38. “ Nay in all these things we are more
“ than *Conquerors* thro’ *Him* that loved us :
“ for I am persuaded that neither *Death*, nor
“ *Life*, nor *Angels*, nor *Principalities*. nor *Powers*,
“ nor things present nor things to come, nor
“ *Height* nor *Depth*, nor any *Creature*, shall be
“ able to separate us from the *Love* of *God*,
“ which is in *Jesus Christ* our *Lord*.

3. Here then is *Victory* and *Triumph* in the *Highest*, to the utmost, under our conquering *Ensign*,
CHRIST JESUS.

* Josh. i. 6, 7, 9. Judges vii. 17.

1. *Victory.* We have a *Standard* that can never *fall*. Heaven and Earth shall *pass away*, but not a tittle of his Word. *The everlasting God fainteth not, neither is weary.* A *Sampson* may faint for *Thirst*, and one of the *three mighty Men with David* smote the *Philistines* till his Hand was *weary*, and *clave* to his Sword; “*benum’d* with holding it so long and fast †; but they that war under Christ shall *renew their Strength*. He it is that *brings forth Judgment unto Victory*. He *came* and overcame, and in his *Strength* we conquer *our Selves*, the *World* and *Devil*. The *Victory* that overcomes them all is our *Faith*. *The God of Grace*, says the *Apostle*, shall *bruise Satan* under your *Feet* shortly. The *Enemy* may sometimes *roar* in the midst of the *Congregation*, and set up his *Ensign* in *Assurance* of *Victory*; he may *prevail* over a *Peter* in an *Assault*, but not in the *War*; No, *Jesus* has *pray’d* for him that his *Faith* fail not, and he *returns* to his *Colours*. Keep to your *Ensign* and you *fright* away the *Enemy*; *resist the Devil* and he shall *flee* before you. Greater is *He* that is in *you*, than he that is in the *World*. What saith the *SPiRIT* to the *Churches*, thro’ the *second* and *third* *Chapters* of the *Revelations* of *JESUS CHRIST*? He speaks of all the *Saints* as *Overcomers* and *Triumphers*; — *To Him that overcometh will I grant* — every high *Honour* and *Glory* that our *immortal Souls* can possibly aspire after or receive.

2, On *Victory* follows *Triumph*: *Triumph* for every one that overcomes. The *Apostle* therefore gives the *Honour* and *Joy* as *common* to all;

† *Clarke* on 2 *Sam* xxiii. 10. *Isai*. xl. 28. 1 *John* v. 4.
Rom. xvi. 20. *Psal.* lxxiv. 4. *Jam.* iv. 7. 1. *John* iv. 4.
 2 *Cor.*

2 Cor. ii. 14. " Now Thanks be unto God, which
 " always causeth us to triumph in Christ. *Min-*
isters triumph in the *Success* of their Ministry, and
 the *People* with them ; they triumph *now* toge-
 ther, and will much more *hereafter*. When the
Lamb opened the *first Seal*, *John* heard a Voice
 saying to him, *Come and see !* and *behold a white*
Horse, and *He that sat on him had a Bow*, and a
Crown was given him, and he went forth conquering
 and to conquer. The Conquerors keep the *Field*
 with their displayed *Ensigns*. There is an *eter-*
nal Triumph before every good Soldier of *Jesus*
Christ. HE is triumphing at the *Right Hand* of the
 FATHER, and all his *Enemies* are made his *Footstool*.
 He *wills* that they also whom the *Father* has gi-
 ven him, be *with Him* where He is, to *behold his*
Glory: He has promis'd them a *Share* in it ; Rev.
 iii. 21. " To him that overcometh will I grant
 " to sit down with me on my Throne, as I also
 " overcame and am set down with my Father on
 " his Throne.

The *Generals* among the *Romans* had *Triumphs*
 decreed them by the *Senate*, after *Wars* and *Battles*
 of singular *Renown* and Profit to the *Commonwealth*.
 These were *Spectacles* of high *Pleasure* both to
 Small & Great among them. The *Multitudes* tri-
 umph'd in & with their *Generals*, rending the *Skies*
 with their *Acclamations*. But O how poor and
 low were these *Earthly Triumphs*, to those of *Hea-*
ven, which the *least* Believers in *Christ* hope to
 share in ! Rev. vii. 9, 10. " And lo a great Mul-
 " titude which no Man can number, of all Na-
 " tions and Kindreds, People and Tongues, stood
 " before the Throne of the Lamb, clothed with
 " white Robes and Palms in their Hands ; and
 " they cried with a loud Voice, saying, " Sal-
 " vation

“vation to our God, which sitteth on the Throne,
 “and to the Lamb” Again, hear the *Shout* of
 Triumph on the *Dragons Fall*, Rev. xii. 10. “Now
 “is come Salvation and Strength, the Kingdom
 “of our God and the Power of his Christ! and
 “they overcame by the Blood of the Lamb, and
 “by the Word of their Testimony! Wherefore
 “rejoice ye Heavens, and they that dwell therein.

Thus the Standard of *War* and the Banner of
Love are in the End one. Our Saviour *subdues* us
 to Himself, and *captivates* us by his Grace, that
 we may *triumph* in his Love, over all his and
 our Enemies. And thus it has been from the *Be-*
ginning of Revenges on the Enemy. Jer. l. 2 “De-
 “clare ye among the Nations and publish, and
 “set up a Standard; *Babylon* is taken, *Bel* is
 “confounded.

☞ And thus have we seen, in many Respects, our
 glorious SAVIOUR *standing for* an *Ensign* of the
 People.

Every *Similitude* whereby He pleases to repre-
 sent Himself, his *Offices* and *Benefits* to us, is beau-
 tiful and pleasant, teaching and very instructive,
 affecting and very moving, elegant and charm-
 ing, endearing, awful and reverend.

You will own, my *Honoured Brethren*, Professors
 and Students in *Arms*, that this *Vision* of the *Son*
of Man, the *Lord of Glory*, which has been *passing*
 before you, is most proper to *your Selves*, and the
 Occasion before us. And now learn You of *Jo-*
shua, the best of *Captains* under *JESUS*, and *prostrate*
 your Selves, and worship the *Lamb of God*, to
 Whom you have *consecrated* your Selves and your
Arms.

Arms. Josh. v. 13, 14. 15. “ And it came to pass
 “ when *Joshua* was by *Jerico*, that he lift up his
 “ Eyes and looked ; and behold there stood a
 “ Man over against him, with his Sword drawn
 “ in his Hand : And *Joshua* went to him and
 “ said, “ Art thou for us, or for our Adversa-
 “ ries? And he said, “ Nay, but as Captain of
 “ the Host of the Lord am I now come. And
 “ *Joshua* fell on his Face to the Earth and did
 “ worship ; and said, “ What saith my Lord un-
 “ to his Servant? And the Captain of the Lords
 “ Host said to *Joshua*, “ Loose thy Shoe from
 “ off thy Feet, for the Place whereon thou stan-
 “ dest is holy ; and *Joshua* did so.

Imagine, if you please, my *Brethren*. your own
Ensign to Day bearing before You, your *professed*
Devotion to the Lamb in the midst of the *Throne*, as
 it had been *slain* ; Or if you please, to the *Lion of*
the Tribe of Judah : They are both *One*, and alike
 reverend and *holy* to You ; alike formidable to
Sinners and pleasurable to *Saints*.

Let CHRIST be great and good and glorious in
 your Eyes ; the *chiefest of ten Thousands* and *alto-*
gether lovely. Be You as the *valiant of Israel* about
his Bed ; they all hold *Swords*, and are expert in
War, every Man has his *Sword* upon his *Thigh*,
 because of *Fear in the Night*. You watch for *Christ's*
Church, its *Preservation* and *Safety* ; He *wakes* for
 it and you. Let Faith make your *Necks* like the
Tower of David, built for an *Armoury*, whereon
 there hang a *thousand Bucklers*, all *Shields of migh-*
ty Men. Cant. iii. 7, 8. Such you will become by
 Faith in your Saviour, and *Obedience* to Him ; and
 he that is feeble shall be as *David*, and the *House of*
David as the Angel of God.

See;

'See, my Brethren, your Need of Christ, and your God your Glory. See your Danger by Distance from Him and Enmity against Him. Mourn all your Desertions from Him and Rebellions against Him. Never be it said of any One here present, "This my Enemy that would not have Me to reign over him! Ever may the Lord be able to say of us, as the Centurion did to Him of the Soldiers under him, "I say unto one, Go, and he goeth, and to another, Come, and he cometh. Take the Sacrament of Fidelity to your General and King; (for the Word meant at first the Oath of Soldiers to their General.) You know who it is has said, and sworn by Himself, "Unto Me every Knee shall bow, and every Tongue shall swear! Surely shall one say, In the LORD have I Righteousness and Strength! to Him shall Men come, and all that are incensed against Him shall be ashamed; in the LORD shall all the Seed of Israel be justified and shall glory. Isa. xlv. 23, 24, 25.

In this Address to You, my Fellow-Soldiers in the Kingdom and Patience of Jesus Christ †, I am persuaded you will think I act as becomes my Age ||. What else were worthy of your Souls and mine! Or were any of our deceased Fathers * to return and speak to You to Day, what else would They think worth saying to you! They that have finish'd the War, and see the Face of the Lamb, and know the Price of Souls, and of his Blood! — But Wo to all his Enemies both now

† Meaning the whole Assembly, and not the Company in Arms only; and so in many Parts of my following Address, and sometimes the whole Body of this People, had they been within hearing.

|| In my 65th Year.

* The finish'd Century directing my Tho'es.

and another Day ! whom do they *fight* against, and whom do they *defy* ! under what *Ensign* do they war, and whose *Cause* do they Support ? you read — “ *The Dragon fought and his Angels ! He is your Captain and your King, if you fight against Christ. But he can never prevail, tho’ the Kings of the Earth should confederate with him, and the Rulers take Counsel together, against the Lord and his Anointed, saying, (Psal. ii. 3, 4, 5.)* “ *Let us break their Bands asunder, and cast away their Cords from us ! He that sitteth in the Heavens shall laugh, the Lord shall have them in Derision ! He shall speak to them in his Wrath, and vex ’em in his sore Displeasure ! — I have set my King upon my holy Hill of Sion !* “ *Thou art my SON, this Day have I begotten thee ! Ask of me, and I will give Thee the Heathen for thine Inheritance, and the uttermost Parts of the Earth for thy Possession.*

It must be *own’d*, with Shame and Sorrow, that *little of Religion*, but *Abundance of Impiety*, is found among the *Men of Arms*, by *Land or Sea*, in *Camps or Navies* : The *SAVIOUR* and his *Blood* is *blasphemed* outrageously ! Yet such *vile Arms* have been often us’d by the *King of the Church* for its *Defence and Service* ; for *He* makes even *Devils* to serve Him. And no wonder then to find *Armies* given up in the *Great Day of the Lord* for a *Prey to Satan*, or cast with *Devils* into the *Lake of Fire and Brimstone* : *Rev. vi. 12, &c.* “ *And I beheld when he had opened Sixth Seal, and* — “ *the Sun became black as Sackcloth of Hair, and* “ *the Moon became as Blood, and the Heaven* “ *departed as a Scroll, when it is rolled toge-* “ *ther. — And the Kings of the Earth, and* “ *the great Men, and the rich Men, and the chief* “ *Captains, and the mighty Men, and every bond-*

“ man and every free-man, hid themselves in the
 “ Dens and in the Rocks of the Mountains ;
 “ and said to the Mountains and Rocks, “ Fall
 “ on us, and hide us from the Face of Him that
 “ sitteth on the Throne, and from the Wrath of
 “ the Lamb ! for the great Day of his Wrath is
 “ come, and who shall be able to stand ?

. And now *Christians*, whose *Soldiers* will you be !
chuse you this Day and come, *subscribe* || with
 your Hand to the LORD ; “ *Thine are we David,*
 “ *and on thy Side thou Son of Jesse ! Peace, Peace be*
 “ *to all thy Helpers ! — “ Gird thy Sword upon*
 “ *thy Thigh, O most Mighty, with thy Glory and thy*
 “ *Majesty ; and in thy Majesty ride prosperously, be-*
 “ *cause of Truth and Meekness and Righteousness ;*
 “ *and thy Right Hand shall teach thee terrible things.*
 “ *Thine Arrows are sharp in the Heart of the Kings*
 “ *Enemies, (to terrify, convert or slay) either*
 “ *way the People fall under Thee : Thy Throne, O God,*
 “ *is for ever and ever ; the Sceptre of thy Kingdom is*
 “ *a right Sceptre. — “ The Lord shall send the*
 “ *Rod of thy Strength out of Zion ; rule Thou in the*
 “ *midst of thy Enemies ! thy People shall be willing*
 “ *in the Day of thy Power, in the Beauties of Holiness,*
 “ *from the Womb of the Morning (from the Day of*
 “ *Pentecost, the Dawning of the Gospel) Thou hast*
 “ *the Dew of thy Youth ; thy early Converts, nume-*
 “ *rous as the Dew, and gently softned by the de-*
 “ *scending Doctrines of a Saviour, as Showers upon*
 “ *the Grass.*

Gentlemen in Arms, Let this be your first Character,
 that You are of this blessed *Company and Number :*

|| *Isai. xli. 5. 1 Chron. xii. 18, Psal. xlv. 3, 4. cx. 3. 4.*
Christ

Christ has called You to be *his Soldiers*, like the *trained Family of Abraham* †, whose *Blessing* is come upon you by *Faith*, who also *saw Christ's Day and was glad*. The *Heroic Patriarch* at the *Head* of his *small victorious Host*, paid his *grateful Tythes* to this *King of Glory*, the *Lord strong and mighty*, the *Lord mighty in Battle*, the *King and Priest of the Most High God*; and He *blessed Abraham* in that *High Name*. The *King of Salem*, the *Prince of Peace*, brought forth *Bread and Wine* to the *valiant Father of the Faithful*, and *blessed the most High God* who had *delivered his Enemies* into his *Hand*. Just so, the *LORD your Banner* displays *Himself*, his *Grace and Benefits* to *You* and to *all of us*, in his *Gospel-Feast*; to whom *You* have there *lift up your Hands*, with your *Hearts*, that the *King of Glory might come in*. If *You, my Brethren*, in your *Places*, and under your *Colours*, are *faithful to Christ*, your *King and Country*, *You also* shall be *blessed of the Most High God*.

Your *Earthly Captain General* * is here present to go before *You*. And I doubt not but He will *gladly lead You* toward a better *World*. I am persuaded He has *chosen the LORD* to *serve Him* in the *Way of these Churches*; and that *many of You* also have given your *Hearts* with your *Names* to *Christ* †. May you all be found *Chosen and Called and Faithful*. Such are *They* that truly *war* under the *LAMB, who is the Lord of Lords, and King of Kings*. Rev. xvii. 14.

† I humbly hope the *Company* were never before *address'd* with a more *cordial Respect*, or more *seriously*.

* GOVERNOUR BELCHER.

‡ How then should it be tho't I mean any thing *disparaging* to *such* personally, in any thing hereafter said?

Your *Fathers* had the *Honour* to be enrolled *Soldiers on the Lord's Side* *. They had a *sure Prospect* of enduring *Hardship* for His *Truths and Ways*. Like *Peter* they walk'd to Him on the *Sea*, and their *Feet* did not *sink*. To *Perils by Water* succeeded new *Dangers and Fatigues on Shore*. A *wild Desert*, and many barbarous *Salvages*, was to be *subdued* by their *Arms*. Their *Zeal* for *Christ*, whose *Cause* they had at *Heart*, animated them for the *Labour and Encounter*. After the manner of *Christian Men* they fought here with *Beasts* ||, in *Hope* of a *better World*, the *Heavenly*. They *trusted* in *God*, and from *Time to Time* had the *Evidences* of his *Presence* with them. "They got not the *Land in Possession* by their own *Sword*, neither did their own *Arm* save them; but thy right *Hand* and thy *Arm*, O *LORD*, and the *Light* of thy *Countenance*, because *Thou hadst a Favour* unto them. What got they in *Temporals* for themselves? or rather what *Loss* for *Christ's sake* did they not suffer? leaving *all* to follow Him! but for *spiritual and eternal Gains*. — What have they not *left* to us their *Children*? a most *pleasant and goodly Heritage* on *temporal Accounts*, as we must acknowledge who have *seen* other (and the better) *Parts* of the *World*: But above all, they fought for us, and have *bequeath'd* unto us, "the *Heritage* of those that *fear Gods Name*! *Purity of Worship* and *Liberty of Conscience*; a *valuable Portion*, for the *Purchase* whereof they counted no *Travel or Expence* too much: That *Kingdom of God*, which is not *Meat*

* The Completion of your *Century* led me into the large *Consideration* of the *Piety* and *Fortitude* of our *Fathers*.

|| 2 *Tim* ii 3. *Matth*. xiv. 30. 2 *Cor*. xi. 26. 1 *Cor* xv. 32. *Mark* x. 28, 29. *Pfalm* lxi. 5. cxix. 111. *Rom*. xiv. 17. *Pfalm* cxl. 5, 6, 7.

and Drink, but Righteousness and Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost. God gave 'em the Heritage of the Heathen, and Meat, being ever mindful of his Covenant, and shewed them the Power of his Works; which are all Verity and Judgment, all his Commandments are sure.

God gave 'em Valour and Conduct; for *Wisdom and Strength are His.* He said, and spake effectually unto them, as He had done to Joshua when he was entring Canaan, “*Only be thou strong and very couragious, to observe to do according to all my Law.* Josh. i. 7. They were inspired accordingly to act a *brave and Christian Part*, for the *Law of their God and the saving Good of their Posterity.*

Religion and Learning, *Churches and Schools* were their first Care; and for these they laid a wise and *strong Foundation*, while they might seem but *weak and feeble* for it, to propagate a well instructed and a *godly Seed.* They proposed *nobly and great*, and projected *wisely* the surest Means, beginning *humbly and creeping* alone in their *Infant-State.*

Only in respect of *Arms* they commenc'd *Men* at once; fought their own and the *Natives Peace*, did all they could to *teach and win and save 'em:* But when *Hatred* was return'd for their *Love and Enmity* for their offer'd *Friendship*, they resolutely *defended* themselves, and pursu'd their *Invaders.* God sent his *Fear* before them, and *one* as it were chas'd a *Thousand.* The *Plague* also had made *Room* for them, and set 'em in a *large Place.* This *Settlement on religious Principles and Motives* prosper'd, while others on *worldly Motives* failed.

Our

Our Founders *died in Faith*, and dead call us to Prudence, Meekness, Devotion, Courage & Love.

They pray'd and wro't and fought; plow'd and built, with their Guns and Swords by their Side, like *Nehemiah* and the *Remnant* in his Day. How ardent were they on their *Sabbaths*, how diligent and frugal all the Week long. Only their *Training-days*, and Days for *Electing* their *Civil Rulers*, were those of their *Show* and *Pride*. Then they took *State* upon 'em, and made an *Appearance*; to express their *Thankfulness* to God their *Trust*, and to inspire their *Sons* with *Reverence of God and Government*, and with a *Zeal to maintain* and preserve what They had so worthily *acquir'd* for them, by the *Blessing of God*. Just as *Moses* and *Joshua* did, for their *Learning*, in the *Minority of Israel*.

ORDER was their Aim. This was sacred to 'em, as it is thro' the *Creation of God*. A just *Rule* and *Liberty* they sought, in *State*, in *Church*, in *Families* and *Schools*. They put great *Honour* on their *Officers*, who were ambitious to *deserve* their *Titles* and command *Respect*: A *Corporal* look'd as great as a *Captain* now, and set more by his *Office*, being much set by. This was not *Vanity* but true *Wisdom*; for by their looking great, and acting so, we soon grew great among the *Provinces*. *Governours* shone with their *hundred* a Year, and none durst despise them. The *Majors* were then *Colonels*, and the *Captains* were more than *Roman Centurions*, without any of their *Usurpation* or *Ostentation*.

See your *Original*, our present *Honoured Commanders*, and write fair after your *Copy*. Look to the *Rock* from whence you were digged, and read these things *graven* on it as with the *Point*
of

of a Diamond. They are not worn out to this Day, tho' more than a hundred Years past. Remember the Days of old, the Years of ancient Times, when the Most High divided to You your present Inheritances and Honours.

This Day is your Jubilee, Gentlemen of the Artillery, your second Jubilee; for You are a hundred Years old. Where is your Jubilee-Trumpet, the Thunder of the Captains and the Shouting! "God is gone up with a Shout (the LORD GOD of your Fathers) sing Praises to Him, sing Praises; and do it with Understanding: the Shields of the Earth belong to God, He is greatly exalted."

You tell me that your compleat Age this Day has partly led you to apply to me. I would not damp your Joy of coming at Age, by looking back with Tears, as the Fathers at Jerusalem, did on our first Love, Virtue and Fortitude. We are risen up in our Fathers stead an Inferiour Generation, except in Numbers, or at least in Proportion to our Numbers, as in respect of Religion, so also of Arms.

Our Scarlet and Crimson * can boast no proved

* A very proper Dress for Officers and others in the Militia, in my Eye; for I think Soldiers should array themselves in a distinguishing Habit on their Days of Training, if they can well afford it; and so far as I can remember, or have been informed, our Fathers did so: so that I could not mean any Reflection on the present Dress of the Gentlemen in Arms, as some have been ready to take the Words. And as to the present Expence, I know not whether it be much more than our Fathers Buff and Ribbands were in their Day. And if it be, I suppose the present Officers and Soldiers have as good Estates to bear it, and many of them much greater; tho' the Land is poor and in Distress thro' want of a Medium for Trade.

Valour || equal to their *hardy Buff*. Our Children it may be would be frighted to see the *Dress* and *Aspect* of one of their *Great Grandfathers* on such a Day as *this*. They put on *Courage* and it clothed them, and they took on 'em an *Authority*, which together with their *Righteousness* was their *Crown and Diadem*. The *Captains* aw'd their *Families* and *Neighbours* † by their *Gravity* and *Piety*, as

|| This also can by no means intend any *Reflection* on the *Valour* of the present *Officers* or *Soldiers*, because the *divine Providence* has not made our Day a *Time of War*; and so has not call'd us, as it did our *Fathers*, to jeopard our *Lives* in the *Fields of the Wood*, or rather in the *Thickets* and *Swamps* of it.

If there were now the like *Lurkings* of the bloody *Salvages* about our *Villages*, or the like *breaking in* and *carry- ing forth* on our *Borders*, as were in our *Fathers Days* and in some of our *own Times*; I doubt not but there would be found *Those* of the present *Generation*, who by the *Help* of *God*, and in his *Fear*, would seek the *Enemy* in their *hiding-places*, as in the *Close* of the *late War* many did with great *Boldness* and *Success*; and their *Praise* has been in our *Pulpits* and from our *Press*.

Nor ought I to omit the *proved Valour* of *Captain Lyman*, with two or three more *Volunteers* in his *Youth*, who penetrated far into our *Woods* to seek out the *Enemy*; and by cutting off a single *Family* (as I am told) they struck such a *Terror* into a *Clan* who were advantageously *posting* themselves for a ready and easy *Descent* upon our several *Provinces*, by our three grand *Rivers*; that finding the *English* had got so nigh to the fine *Interval Land* they had chosen, they were *intimidated* and *hasted* away. Such Attempts may look *small* to some, and be little remembered by most with *Thankfulness* to *God*, and to the just *Honour* of the *Persons* that serve under *his* Influence; but who can tell the *Favour* of *God* and *Benefit* to a *Country* by them?

† As also it must be acknowledg'd, to the *Glory* of *God*, that not a few of our present *Commanders* do at this *Day*; being bright *Examples* of *Virtue* and *Devotion*, *Generosity*, *Gravity* and *Wisdom*, and justly esteem'd by all that know them.

well

well as frightened their *Enemies* by their Boldness and Fierceness. The *Natives* trembled when they saw them train, and old as well as young stood still and reverenc'd 'em, as they pass'd along in *Martial Order*. A valiant *Church* * could jump down a kind of Precipice, amidst a Score or two of *Counsellors* & Attendants about their *Sachem*, meditating *War* upon us, and take him away, to answer to our Governour. *Fuit, fuit ista quondam in hac Republica Virtus, ut Viri fortes — —*.

And very precious is the *Promise* in the Book of God, “*Instead of the Fathers shall be the Children, whom thou mayest make Princes in all the Earth.* P^{sal.} xlv. 16. I thank God that we have seen, and still see, many of the *Sons of New-England* shining in the *Virtues*, filling well the *Places*, and adorning the *Names* of their *Ancestors*.

Such was our late Honourable *Agent QUINCY*, at the Head of his *Regiment*, in his Seat at the *Council Board*, and on the *Bench* of Judgment. *Gentlemen of the Artillery*, You will give me leave to mourn before you the lamented *Death* of such a *Captain*. He was an *Honour* to his *Commission*, lov'd and fear'd by all under him. — We read of the *Meekness of Wisdom*; This he had, and also the *Mildness of Courage*. May our *Country* ever be blessed with Men of like *Modesty*, *Constancy* and *Fortitude*. All he did was from *Conscience* toward God, and in his *Fear*. Had he lived in the *Days* of our *Fathers*, I truly think he would have been esteem'd a very perfect *Pattern* by them. There was a *Treasure* of *Piety*, *Prudence* and *Integrity*

* Afterward Col. Church of Little-Compton.

in that *Earthen Vessel*; and such Men should be *priz'd* while they live, and *mourn'd* when they die; as no small Part of the *peculiar Treasure of the Provinces*.

The *Residue* of the *Spirit* is with God; and down to our Days he takes of the *Spirit* that was on *Moses*, and puts it on *Rulers* here and there; and also *Joshua's* *Spirit* on *Commanders* in Chief and Subordinate. God has many a *David* in store for his *Church*, in Times long to come, to serve their *own Generation*, after his *own Heart*, in *Integrity and Uprightness*: And then how *easy* is it for 'em to *fall asleep*, and be gathered to their *Fathers*? Acts xiii. 36.

But should an *Angel* of the Lord now appear to such a One yet alive among us, finding him we will suppose in his *Threshing-floor* or by his *Cyder-press* ||, and salute him, saying, "The LORD is with thee, thou *Man of Valour*! would he not be ready to answer in *Gideon's* Words, "O my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is it thus? why are Things with us as they are? and where be all the *Tokens* of his Presence among us, as in the Days of our *Fathers*? what is become of that generous noble *public Spirit* of Piety and Prudence, Gravity and Authority, Courage and Command, † *Subjection and Obedience*, Reverence of God and Government, Temperance and Frugality, Godliness and Honesty, which our *Fathers* were famous for? — The LORD look on every One disposed to speak after this Manner, and say unto Them that

|| Or in his *Store-house* or *Shop*.

† All Orders and *Degrees* are you see put together, and the lowest taken in.

spiriting Word, Judges vi. 14. *Go thou, in this thy Might, and help to save my People out of their present Weakness and Feebleness, Folly and Impoverishment, the Poverty that is come upon them as an armed Men.*

Do we ask, what has bro't on us this *Want*, as *one that travelleth*? Prov. vi. 11, It is easy to answer, — Our Wordliness, and *Pride*, Sensuality, *Vain-glory*, *Fineries* and profuse *Expence* in Dress and Furniture; which have naturally led into *Unrighteousness* and *Dishonesty*: These have bro't us *low*, and will bring us *lower* if not amended, and lay our Honour in the Dust.

Neither the *Christian*, nor the *Roman Spirit* can subsist long under our profuse *Expences*, in the Furniture of our *Houses*, the rich *Dresses* of our *Families*, our *Silks* and *China* and empty Pockets ||.

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Within

|| I think it is as plain as the *Light*, to them that will not shut their Eyes thro' Prejudice of *Vanity* or *Gain*, that our living *beyond* our selves in rich *Attire* and *Equipage*, within Doors and without, has bro't us into our *Debts* to our *Mother-Country*, and hereby into those *Straits* and *Difficulties*, for want of a *Silver Currency*, and by Reason of the depreciating the *Bills* of our *Provinces*, which every Body complains of, and none can tell how to remedy. There is in my Opinion but one possible Cure, and that is (as a *People*) to repent of and reform our *Expences* and *Extravagances*.

But can any one think this *Censure* of our *Silks* and *China*, with *Want* of *Money*, meant to the *Gentlemen of the Militia* in particular, because this *public Occasion* was taken to mention the *common Calamity* upon us, upon the comparing our *Day and State* with that of our *Fathers*? By no means. The *Complaint* has no *Relation* to the *Soldicry* in particular, unless you would run it in the wise *Comparison*

Within another *Century*, our present *Way* continuing, to what are our *Numbers* like to be reduced? as those in our *Books* to a Multitude of *Noughts*, which we call so many *hundreds* and *thousands*; so the *Numbers* of our *People* to a Multitude of *Debtors* and *Starvelings*, the *Property* of *Them* who now *feed* our insatiable *Vanity*, to whom we are *selling* our *Families* as fast as we can for a little *Dress*.

Where then is our *Courage*, or rather where our *Shame*? can we *bear* this? then fold up your *Ensign*, and hush your *Drum*, put off your *Scarlet*, and lay down your *Arms*; and let me leave the *Desk*, with that *first of Lamentations* over *Judah*, when she had destroy'd her self; "She that was *Princess* among the *Provinces*, how is she become *tributary*?"

But let us *recover* our *Arms*: CHRIST our *King* and *Captain* lives! Of Him it is testified, that *He liveth*. He can *humble* and reform us; respire, revive and restore us. Of his *Fulness* we may receive, and *Grace for Grace*. Whatsoever we *ask* of the *Father* in his *Name*, He will do it. One *Day* is with Him as *a thousand Years*, and a thousand

rison of Solomon, "Thy *Want* as an *armed Man*; i. e. "unexpected, irresistible and most destructive. --- I tho't the *Siiks* and *China* were the *Gentlewomen's* ware, and I know a great deal of this faulty *Indulgence* in their *Families* who never *train'd* in their *Lives*, and next to *nothing* of it in theirs who were in *Arms* before me. It should grieve us however, to see we can't *bear* to have our *Sore* touch'd; when it *pains* us so much and is ready to *break*, and the kindest thing any one can do is to *lance* and open it. --- I acknowledge however the *Omission* of *two Lines*, which were not so properly plac'd in the *Discourse*, and so might be liable to some *Exception*.

Years

Years as *one Day*, Our Centuries pass quick, and how Sovereign is the Rise and Fall of Families, Cities, Provinces and Kingdoms in every Century almost! but *Thou art the same, and thy Years shall not fail.* Heb. i. 12.

One Generation goes and another comes, but the *Word of the Lord endureth for ever*; the same to every Generation. This *Word* which by the Gospel is preached to us, was also to our *Fathers*, and received by Them with Love, Fear and Reverence. The LORD has commanded it to a thousand Generations. We will not *hide* it from our Children, but *show* to the Generations to come the Praises of the Lord and his Strength.

Know therefore, that the *Lord thy God*, He is GOD; the faithful God, which keepeth Covenant and Mercy with them that love Him, to a thousand Generations; and repayeth them that hate Him to their Face, to destroy them. He is the Lord our God, his Judgments are in all the Earth. *Seek the Lord and his Strength, seek his Face evermore*; glory ye in his holy Name. *Return unto Me, saith the Lord, and I will return unto you.* Let our Souls answer, with the lamenting Church, “*Turn thou us and we shall be turned*; renew our Days as of old. Wilt thou not revive us again, that thy People may rejoice in Thee! shew us thy Mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy Salvation.

If CHRIST in the Cloud of Glory will cover our Camp, and dwell in our Churches, we shall yet be safe and flourishing. But else in vain is Salvation hoped for from the Hills & Mountains. Worthy is the LAMB to receive Power and Riches, and Wisdom and Strength, and Honour and Glory & Blessing! JESUS has sent his Angel to testify of Him in his Churches; HE is the Root and Offspring of David, and the bright and Morning Star.