

A
DISCOURSE

DELIVERED AT WETHERSFIELD,

DECEMBER 11th, 1783.

BEING A DAY OF

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING,

Throughout the UNITED STATES of AMERICA.

BY JOHN MARSH, A. M.

Pastor of the first Church and Society in Wethersfield.

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A Thanksgiving Discourse.

P S A L M CXLVII. 12, 13, 14.

*Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem : Praise thy God, O Zion.
For he hath strengthened the bars of thy gates : he hath blessed
thy children within thee.*

*He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the finest
of the wheat.*

THE signal favours for which the inhabitants of these United States are called upon by providence and our rulers to give thanks unto the great Governour of the world, and celebrate his high praises this day, bear such a striking resemblance to those for which the inspired psalmist here calls upon Jerusalem and Zion to praise the LORD, that the words now read seem peculiarly suitable to stand at the head of a discourse on this joyful occasion.

By strength derived from the LORD our God, and his blessing upon the children of this country, it is, that we have been enabled successfully to resist, and completely defeat, our unnatural enemies in their unjust, formidable and cruel attempts to bring slavery and ruin upon us.

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The bars of our gates (that is, our advantages and capacity for self-defence) compared with the great power of the enemy, were exceedingly weak and slender.

WHEN our just and invaluable rights were threatened and attacked by Britain, we had, at first, no idea of making resistance to her unrighteous and alarming attempts in any way but that of humble petitions, remonstrances and non-importation agreements.

WHEN hostilities were commenced, and we were obliged to fly to arms in our own defence, and oppose force by force, the only rational prospect we had of success arose from the justice of our cause, and our application to and trust in GOD for help---even that GOD, who is *a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in time of trouble. For he delivereth the needy when he crieth : The poor also, and him that hath no helper, and will break in pieces the oppressor.*

AT that distressing period the prayer of Jehoshaphat well became us : “ Behold, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession which thou hast given us to inherit. O our GOD wilt thou not judge them ? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us ; neither know we what to do, but our eyes are upon thee*.”

As then there was a special propriety in our making use of this prayer ; so now there is no less propriety in our adopting the language of GOD’s ancient people, and saying, “ If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us : then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us : Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul. Then the proud waters had gone over our soul. Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us a prey to their teeth. Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers ; the snare is broken and we are escaped. Our help is in the name of the LORD who made heaven and earth†.”

GOD

* 2 Chron. xx. 11, 12.

† Psalms cxxiv.

God hath blessed the children, the inhabitants, of this country with that first and great blessing, *Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the land.* When our forefathers first came into this then howling wilderness, they were few in number : But, through the smiles and benediction of heaven, they increased with surprising rapidity ; and for the time, we had become, previously to the late contest, a numerous people.

He hath also blessed us by putting it into the hearts of our pious ancestors early to found public seminaries of learning, which under his divine auspices have flourished, and been the means of spreading most important and useful knowledge among the children of America. Many of her sons have been trained up and qualified for eminent service both in church and state. In emergencies the most critical and trying there never has been wanting a sufficient number of able patriots to lead and guide their brethren in paths of safety. And through an uncommon diffusion of knowledge, and a peculiar attention to the subjects of civil and religious liberty, the minds of the great body of the people were eminently prepared for asserting their just rights at the time when they were assaulted in the most violent and dangerous manner.

BUT, though we were in these respects greatly blessed and strengthened by God, in many other respects the bars of our gates were very weak.

THE inhabitants being scattered over a large extent of country---living under different governments---entertaining strong local prejudices---having various and opposite interests, and being unskilled in war, were, to human appearance, in a condition to make but a feeble resistance against an army of regular, well disciplined troops.

BRITAIN, a nation old in the art of war, and famous for the valour of her forces, was full of the opinion, that a few regiments of her veteran soldiers were abundantly sufficient to break through all opposition we could make to her

her despotic mandates, and reduce us in a very short time to abject submission.

WHEN we appeared thus contemptible to a nation which had been wont to judge well of the strength of those with whom she engaged in war---when we were possessed of the most formidable ideas of the power of those who seemed to be determined upon our ruin; knowing it to be easy for them to attack us in any part of our country, and, by taking such measures as human policy would naturally suggest, to increase the many and great obstacles already in the way of uniting our strength---then, through the almost miraculous influence of divine providence, a most surprising, laudable and heroic spirit of opposition to the alarming claims of Britain was diffused throughout the continent; and a wonderful union of the inhabitants of the different and distant provinces and colonies was formed in measures to ward off the evils intended against them.---In this important respect God blessed the children of this land; and by uniting them, greatly strengthened the bars of our gates.

Nor long before the commencement of hostilities Heaven blessed us by exciting in the inhabitants, in every part of the country, a very uncommon attention to the art military, whereby they became the better fitted to resist an armed force. And when the first blood was shed (which was done by Britons*,) he girded the militia with strength, and inspired them with courage and valour, greatly unexpected and alarming to British veterans, who had been ever taught to look for little or no opposition from such a body of men.

WHEN an army suddenly became necessary to oppose the enemy, and restrain them from marching wheresoever they pleased, and making wanton destruction of the lives and property of the inhabitants, then the LORD our God blessed us in spiring so many to offer themselves, willingly, for the defence of their country, even to the jeoparding of

* At Lexington, April 19, 1775.

of their lives in the high places of the field. And how did he teach their hands to war and their fingers to fight ! How did he strengthen them in the memorable battle of *Bunker Hill**!---He, who can save by few as well as by many, was on our side enabling a small number of raw undisciplined troops to oppose with such firmness and ardour, a large body of chosen British veterans conducted by one of their most able Generals, and to do such execution, as struck the army of Britain with a dread from which they never recovered during the whole war.

THE conviction of American courage, valour and intrepidity, as well as skill in the use of the firelock, produced in the breasts of our enemies by this battle, was a means by which God added very signal and lasting strength to the bars of our gates, occasioning thereby such fear and caution in them not only through that campaign, but afterwards, even when they were in their greatest force, as was our main security until we had opportunity to form and discipline a permanent army.

GOD hath blessed the children of this land not only by inspiring them with a love of liberty and their country, and exciting so many voluntarily to take up arms and go forth to meet the enemy, but in raising up and qualifying such numbers for officers of every rank and subordination, who have done most worthily and merited much from their brethren,---and especially, in forming, preparing and accomplishing ONE after a most *peculiar* manner, to take the principal command of our forces ; and in fixing the eyes of all Israel on him as the man most suitable, in every respect, to sustain the high, arduous and most important office of Captain-General and Commander in Chief of the Patriot Army.

O America, how hath the LORD of hosts, even thy God, strengthened the bars of thy gates, and blessed thy children within thee, by raising up a WASHINGTON, one of thine own sons, and enduing him with such singular accomplishments and placing him at the head of thine armies !---centering the
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affections

* June 17, 1775.

affections both of officers and soldiers from different parts of the continent, as well as the confidence of the inhabitants, in him---rendering him the means of divesting at once, of their deep rooted prejudices against one another, the men who composed the different lines of the army, and uniting them in the most endearing bonds of brotherly love and friendship,---through him so suddenly, to the wonder of the world, forming from raw materials a regular well disciplined army---favouring him with uninterrupted health and vigour, amidst incessant cares, fatigues and watchings---shielding him in imminent dangers---inspiring him with unexampled patience and fortitude---keeping alive in his breast that patriotic flame which no disappointments however mortifying and discouraging, nor any offers in the power of the enemy to make, could extinguish---making him the glory of Americans, the envy of Britons, and the admiration of all the powers of Europe ; and giving him to see his desire on his enemies, in their being brought to give up their unrighteous claims, and leave us in the quiet enjoyment of our invaluable liberties by withdrawing their troops from our shores.

THE LORD, the God of this American Israel, strengthened us in our weak, feeble and unprovided condition, by furnishing us in ways and by means unexpected, with clothing for our troops, and ordnance, arms, ammunition and military stores ; causing many of these necessary articles provided at the expence of the enemy and intended for the use of their army, to fall into our hands ; and rendering our armed vessels successful in making prizes of vast other treasure and wealth floating upon the seas in British bottoms.

God highly favoured the inhabitants of this country while groaning under the oppression of Britain---a nation, whose sovereign we acknowledged as our own, and to whom we were always ready to yield all due loyalty and every reasonable submission, never refusing any requisition not militating with our charter rights : But a nation, and a King, which, not content with the possession and exercise of constitutional

constitutional authority, and lusting after despotic power, broke through the sacred barrier of charters, explicitly claimed *a right to bind us in all cases whatsoever*, and sent against us a tremendous armed force to rob us of our liberty, and rivet the chains of slavery upon us.----- When this was the dismal situation of thy children, O America, then the Lord thy God blessed them by presenting them with a fair opportunity of asserting their natural right to national independence--an independence not indeed sought by them--But an opportunity abundantly sufficient to justify them in such a measure in the eyes of the whole world, not excepting Britain herself.

WHAT, says Mr. Hartley, a member of the British House of Commons, and a gentleman of distinguished character, in his letters to his constituents, "What had the Americans to look to after the refusal of their last petition, but to seek for shelter in their own strength and independence? They were cut off from all possible communication with their sovereign and their mother country; and the first act of the second session of Parliament was to cast them out of all national and parliamentary protection; to send twenty thousand German mercenaries against them; to incite an insurrection of negroes against their masters, and to let loose the Indian savages upon their innocent and unarmed backsettlers, and upon defenceless women and children. They had petitioned and addressed; they had disclaimed every idea of independence; in return for which administration sends against them an army of fifty thousand men. Now let ministers answer to God and their country for the blood which they have shed. The blood of thousands of their fellow creatures, wilfully and premeditatedly shed in an unjust cause will be required at their hands; who have taken their full stretch of vengeance in their attempts to destroy and to lay waste to the utmost of their malignant power the lives, liberty, property and all the rights of mankind."

GOING, with this writer, upon the supposition that the ministers alone are chargeable with all this injustice and
cruelty

cruelty, what safety could we any longer have had in a connection with, and dependence on, a nation, which would suffer a few evil and designing men raised to that important office, to imploy the great national strength in wreaking their diabolical malice on every thing dear to us? What remained for us but to shake off our connection with them? What people, or what person, that thinks rationally and deliberately would not approve of such an act in us? When, says the same writer, "When all those transactions shall come hereafter to be revised in some cooler hour, I am confident there is not a man with a British heart who will not say, that in the same circumstances he would have acted as the Americans have done."

BUT the ministers *alone* are not responsible for these measures, however criminal they were in recommending and advising to them: They must be considered as the measures of the nation in general; for each branch of the British government concurred in adopting and authorizing them. In this light they were viewed, and were openly reprobated by many of the wisest and best men in Britain.

SEVERAL of the Peers of the realm, Noblemen of the first reputation and greatest political discernment, all along publicly opposed, and declared against, the national conduct respecting this country, as greatly injurious and tending to force us to break off our connection with the parent state. In the protest of the Lords against the prohibitory bill, they expressly say, "We are preparing the minds of the Americans for that independence we charge them with affecting, whilst we drive them to the necessity of it by repeated injuries."

By these tyrannical, cruel and wicked deeds of our enemies, Heaven, whose glory it is to bring good out of evil, granted us this opportunity, "not in the gloomy age of ignorance and superstition, but at an *epocha*," as our illustrious Commander in Chief in his last circular letter justly and elegantly observes, "but at an *epocha* when the
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rights of mankind were better understood and more clearly defined than at any former period ;---the researches of the human mind after social happiness have been carried to a great extent---the treasures of knowledge acquired by the labours of philosophers, sages and legislators through a succession of years, are laid open for our use, and their collected wisdom may be happily applied to the establishment of our forms of government.---The free cultivation of letters, the unbounded extension of commerce, the progressive refinement of manners, the growing liberality of sentiment, and above all, the pure and benign light of revelation, have had a meliorating influence on mankind, and increased the blessings of society ;---at this auspicious period," Heaven was pleased to present these states with a fair opportunity of asserting their natural right as an independent nation ; and what is more, blessed them with a heart to embrace it, inspiring the worthy patriots of which Congress was then composed, with resolution, fortitude and courage in circumstances of the greatest hazard, to frame, sign and publish that immortal act which gives us a rank among the nations of the earth.

THE independence of these United States, through the wonderful operations of divine providence, being declared, and our connection with Britain in a formal manner forever dissolved (though not till long after she "had with her own hands violently broken every bond of union") and we having to support ourselves in our new character as a separate nation, against the formidable efforts of a cruel, disappointed and enraged enemy, fully bent on our destruction, our help was only in the name of the LORD.

WHEN other nations stood at a distance, amazed at our situation, the issue of the contest being too doubtful to render it prudent or safe for any of them openly to espouse our cause and afford us aid, however well they might wish us---when our affairs were at the lowest ebb, and wore the most gloomy aspect---then the LORD our God wrought a most marvellous change in them by the glorious victories of
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of Trenton* and Princeton†, granted in quick succession to a small but brave army under the immediate conduct of our wise, enterprising, vigilant and intrepid Commander in Chief---and the next campaign‡, by delivering into our hands in a most surprising manner, General Burgoyne and the whole of his large army, who threatened destruction to the northern part of the country, and from whom the British nation had most raised expectations.

In these wonderful events the interposition of divine providence on behalf of these states, was too conspicuous not to be discerned and owned by the most unobscuring and unbelieving mind. By means of them, Heaven not only encouraged our hearts, and strengthened our hands among *ourselves*, but blessed us with reputation *abroad*, and convinced one of the most magnanimous Princes and powerful nations in Europe, that our cause was worthy of attention, and that it would not be dishonourable or unsafe for them publicly to acknowledge our independence, and enter into a treaty of alliance and friendship with us||.

By such an acknowledgment on the part of a MONARCH of so respectable a nation as that of FRANCE, and of such personal and royal accomplishments as LOUIS THE SIXTEENTH is well known to be possessed of---and by such a treaty, a treaty founded in mutual interest “as was openly confessed, and therefore natural and likely to be lasting,” God blessed the children of America, and strengthened the bars of our gates to such a degree as greatly confounded our enemies, and might well have struck their minds with full conviction, that it would be in vain to make any further efforts to break them.

BUT being too haughty and too revengeful to give over the unrighteous pursuit, Britain still prosecuted the war with great vigour, and with a wantonness and cruelty eternally disgraceful to her : And Heaven* continued to bless and strengthen us, surprisingly maintaining the union of
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* Dec. 26, 1776. † Jan. 3, 1777. ‡ Oct. 17, 1777.

|| This treaty was signed Feb. 6, 1778.

the states against every insidious, artful and base attempt of enemies without and enemies within, to divide and weaken them---preserving the purity of Congress amidst all endeavours to corrupt the members of it, and continuing the stability and patriotism of the respective Legislatures unshaken---inspiring our armies with invincible and unheard of patience under every suffering and hardship, giving wonderful efficacy to the singular example, the earnest exhortations and intreaties of their excellent and greatly beloved General, as the means of quieting and keeping them together---detecting in a very critical moment, the infernal conspiracy of *Arnold**, and thereby preventing a most important post with a considerable part of our troops and the person of the Commander in Chief, from being delivered at once into the hands of the enemy---inducing our great, generous and patriotic Ally early to send to our aid a squadron which did us much service in disconcerting the designs of the enemy ; and afterwards a large body of chosen troops under leaders of distinguished abilities and the most established military reputation, which continued with us during the war ; and in due time a navy superior to that of the enemy---turning the wisdom of our enemies into foolishness---directing, influencing and succeeding the joint councils of the Generals of the allied armies to the astonishment of all both friends and foes---ordering the uncertain arrival of the fleet last sent to our help, to take place at a most important juncture, and thereby entirely frustrating the designs of the British fleet which was forced to fly before it---giving the combined armies an opportunity to cross the Chesapeak with safety into Virginia, and assisting them in besieging and reducing York-Town, and making prisoners of war Earl Cornwallis, the boasted General of Britain, and his whole army : By which means, together with the successes granted our army in the southern states, and the acknowledgement of our independence by Spain and Holland, God added such a degree of strength to the bars of our gates as mightily brought down the pride of Britain, and compelled that nation

* This conspiracy was discovered Sept. 25, 1780.

tion with their fovereign, which, not seven years before, scornfully refused humble petitions from us as part of the British empire and his loyal subjects, to be *first* in proposing a pacification on terms no less mortifying to them, and honourable to us, than an acknowledgement of the United States of America to be FREE, SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT STATES*.

THE time would fail me, as well as my ability, to recollect and take particular notice of all the marvellous events and methods by which the LORD our GOD, in his most wise, merciful and gracious providence, hath strengthened and blessed us through an eight years severe and bloody war in defence of our inestimable liberties and privileges. I have mentioned such as have occurred to mind, and appear to me the most memorable, and to hold a principal rank among those events.

It would argue a criminal want of gratitude, to pass over in silence the very uncommon health with which Heaven favoured both the inhabitants and the armies of these states, during by far the greater part of the time we were engaged in the war---and also the great abundance of provisions for the supply of unusual demands, notwithstanding all the waste made by the ravages of the enemy, and the peculiar disadvantage for tilling the ground and saving the fruits of the earth, occasioned by the scarcity of labourers, and the alarms by which the husbandmen were frequently interrupted in the most busy and critical seasons.

AND it is worthy of our particular grateful notice, that GOD hath blessed the children of this land in raising up from among them such a number of men, and enduing them with such eminent abilities---such deep penetration---such patriotism---such firmness---such dignity of conduct---such integrity, perseverance, and activity, as have
done

* The provisional articles of peace, in the first of which his Britannic Majesty makes this acknowledgment, were signed at Paris, November 30, 1782.

done us singular honour and rendered us essential service, as in Congress and the General Assemblies, so at Foreign Courts by various, important and most successful negotiations; particularly with respect to the provisional and definitive articles of peace, which our Ministers Plenipotentiary have been most happily instrumental of obtaining, settling and establishing---articles greatly to our honour, our safety, our advantage and our happiness.---For these things we have abundant reason to come before the LORD with thanksgiving, and to enter his gates with praise, as we profess to do this day.

PRAISE the LORD, O America: Praise thy God, O United States: For he hath strengthened the bars of thy gates: He hath blessed thy children within thee. He maketh peace in thy borders.

THE time, the long wished for time is come, and it is come much sooner than we could reasonably have expected, when the war has terminated in the accomplishment of the great object, and more than the object we had in view when we first took up arms against an invading enemy.

By the late arrival of the definitive treaty of peace, ratified on the part of Great-Britain, which puts an end to all uncertainty respecting the final settlement of the contest; and the departure of all the British forces from our shores, having left the city of New-York a quiet habitation, a tabernacle not taken down---by these late events GOD is increasing the joy of our hearts, and giving us additional cause of praise and thanksgiving*.

HAPPY am I, my friends, in this opportunity of congratulating you, myself and our common country, on the establishment of a glorious peace, with which the LORD our God is blessing us.

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* The cessation of hostilities took place in America April 3, 1783.---The definitive treaty was signed at Paris the 3d day of September.---The British troops left the city of New-York the 25th day of November.

"He maketh peace in our borders," removing far away from us those who for many years have made us afraid---who have spilled the blood of thousands of our brethren---murdered many of our defenceless inhabitants---inhumanly treated and destroyed multitudes of our sons in captivity, crowding them into polluted prison-ships and other infected places of confinement, and withholding from them the necessities of life---burned numbers out of our valuable towns---laid waste our pleasant fields and gardens---plundered and made wanton destruction of much of our precious property---endangered our inestimable liberty, making use of every base and violent method in their power to rob us of it---liberty, without which life itself would be but of little value! From such fears, from such distresses, from such dangers God hath delivered us: And O how great is the deliverance! Surely after passing through so long a scene of distress and war, we cannot but have a high relish for peace and safety.

God not only maketh peace in our borders, but "he filleth us with the finest of the wheat." He is blessing us with a country abounding with the greatest variety and best of provisions, among which wheat, the choicest of that bread which strengthens man's heart, is a capital article---an article of more importance with respect to the comfort and happiness of a people than all manner of precious stones and spices. The land of Israel on this account among others was reckoned the glory of all lands; and for this God was praised in Zion.

It is a very striking evidence of the goodness and fertility of our soil, that though we have but just emerged from an eight year's consuming and wasting war, there is at present in the country as great an abundance of provisions of every kind; if not greater than when we were forced into it.---And it is a circumstance much in our favour, and which calls for special grateful acknowledgements, that at the close of a war, which could not but involve us considerably in debt, we are surrounded with such plenty.

MANY

MANY are the advantages and favourable circumstances attending the peace with which the LORD our GOD is blessing us, that demand our most devout and elevated ascriptions of praise.

CONFIRMED in the possession of absolute freedom and independence---an independence friendly to commerce, to science and religion,---having an acknowledged right to a territory greatly extensive, and abundantly sufficient to render us respectable among the nations of the earth, and to give contentment to any people who are disposed to be content with any thing short of universal empire---possessing a country the local situation of which, and the variety of soils and climates are such, that it is in our power to continue in peace with all the nations of the world, and have within ourselves an abundance of all the necessities and comforts of life---whatever privileges, advantages and conveniencies any other nation can enjoy, we may enjoy without being liable to those inconveniencies which most other nations are exposed to. Happy people, if we have a heart to make a wise improvement of them.

NEVER had we occasion of thanksgiving like this ! Never, perhaps, had any other nation such occasion in all respects of gratitude and joy, having in addition to so great deliverances and blessings, the clear light of the glorious gospel. ---Let us, my hearers, endeavour to affect our hearts with a lively grateful sense of our obligations to GOD therefor, and praise him with joyful lips, ascribing all the honour unto him, who hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad ; and saying, “ Not unto us, not unto us O LORD, but to thy name be the glory : Thou hast turned for us our mourning into dancing : Thou hast put off our sackcloth, and girded us with gladness ; to the end that our glory may sing praise unto thee and not be silent. O LORD our GOD, we will give thanks to thee forever.” ---Let us be solicitous to praise him not only with our lips, but more especially by a well ordered conversation, earnestly beseeching him, “ that he would grant unto us, that we, being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, might serve him without

without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life."

It depends upon our gratitude to God expressed by a conduct towards him, a conduct towards the divine Jesus, a conduct towards mankind, and ourselves, corresponding to the rules and precepts of our holy religion, whether the signal blessings for which we are celebrating the high praises of heaven this day, prove *blessings indeed* to us or not.

As happy and secure as we may be ready to imagine ourselves in the possession of the great blessings of independence, liberty, peace and plenty, it is infinitely easy with God to turn them into the greatest curses: And it is an alarming threatening contained in his word, *If ye will not hear and if ye will not lay it to heart to give glory to my name, saith the Lord of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings**. O then may it be our solicitous concern, to make such improvement of the singular advantages Heaven is putting into our hands for national glory and happiness, as will in some good measure answer his most just and reasonable expectations, not suffering our liberty to degenerate into licentiousness, and our independence to run us into anarchy and confusion! And may every one be roused to the most vigorous exertions for the support of the civil constitution, that a new energy may be given to government---an energy that shall be felt universally, without which it is impossible that we should long exist as a free and happy people!---And,

LET us all be excited to pay particular attention to the great and extensive law of righteousness: *For the righteous Lord loveth righteousness, and his countenance doth behold the upright*: And it is a maxim contained in the book of inspiration, a maxim which hath been found true by the experience of all ages---*Righteousness exalteth a nation*.

As piety and virtue, to use the words of an excellent writer.

* Malachi ii. 2.

writer "As piety and virtue support the honour and happiness of every community, they are peculiarly requisite in a free government. Virtue is the spirit of a republic; for where all power is derived from the people, all depends on their good disposition. If they are impious, factious and selfish; if they are abandoned to idleness, dissipation, luxury and extravagance; if they are lost to the fear of God and the love of their country, all is lost. Having got beyond the restraints of a divine authority, they will not brook the controul of laws enacted by rulers of their own creating." Surely then it is of the last consequence in order to the welfare of this community, that the members of it take special care to lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness as well as honesty.

"An established honour and fidelity," saith the same author, "in all public engagements and promises, form a branch of righteousness that is wealth, is power and security to a state: It prevents innumerable perplexities: It creates confidence in the government from subjects and from strangers: It facilitates the most advantageous connections: It extends credit; and easily obtains supplies in the most pressing public emergencies, and when nothing else can obtain them: While the want of it, whatever benefits some shortsighted politicians may have promised from delusive expedients, and deceitful arts, renders a state weak and contemptible; strips it of its defence; grieves and provokes its friends, and delivers it up to the will of its enemies."

It is a melancholy consideration that among professed christians there is so much need of urging "the importance of preserving inviolate the public faith! If this is allowed to be important at all times, and in all states, it must be peculiarly so to those whose foundations are newly laid, and who are but just numbered among the nations of the earth---They have a national character to establish, upon which their very existence may depend."

In a firm conviction of the vast importance of these things,

things, from a due consideration of them, may every one be concerned to exert himself to the utmost within his proper sphere for their promotion! And may we all be engaged to offer continual fervent prayers to God, who hath done great things for us, that he would be graciously pleased to pour down his spirit upon the inhabitants of these states, and unite them in giving glory to his name in such a manner as will secure his presence, protection and blessing.

AND may he be pleased to make us an holy people unto himself, and then we shall not fail to be an happy people.

THE E N D.