

The Honours of CHRIST demanded of the MAGISTRATE.

A

S E R M O N

Preach'd in the Audience of His EXCELLENCY the

G O V E R N O U R,

The HONOURABLE the

C O U N C I L

AND

Representatives,

Of the Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, in *New-England*,
May 28. 1740. The Day for the ELECTION of His
MAJESTY'S COUNCIL there.

By *William Cooper*, A.M.

Pastor of a Church in B O S T O N.

*John 5. 23. That all Men should honour the Son, even as they
honour the Father.*

B O S T O N; N. E.

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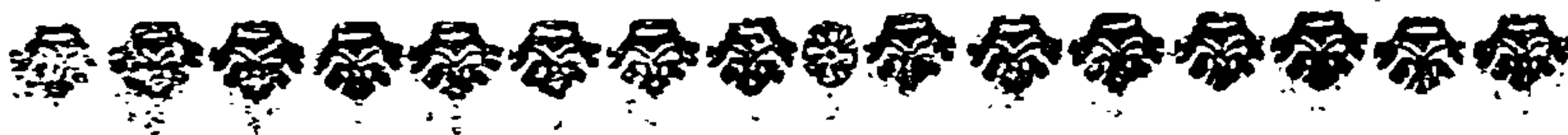
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At a Council held at the Council
Chamber in *Boston*, on *Thursday*
the *29th* of *May*, 1740.

ORDERED, *That Jacob Wendell and*
Richard Bill, Esqrs; give the Thanks
of this Board to the Rev. Mr. William
Cooper, for his Sermon preached Yester-
day before the General Assembly ; and that
they desire a Copy thereof for the Press.

Attest. Simon Frost, Dep. Secr.





A N

Election SERMON.



P S A L M II. x, xi, xii.

*Be wise now therefore, O ye Kings : be instructed
ye Judges of the Earth.*

*Serve the LORD with Fear, and rejoice with
Trembling.*

*Kiss the SON lest He be angry, and ye perish
from the Way, when his Wrath is kindled
but a little : Blessed are all they that put
their Trust in Him.*



H I S anniversary Day which is
now return'd upon us, may very
well be call'd *A Day which the* Psal. 118.
Lord hath made ; inasmuch as 24.
He has given us the happy Oc-
casion of it, by putting our Fa-
thers, and continuing us in the
Possession of those invaluable Privileges, the Exer-
cise whereof is the proper Business of the Day :
And

And if we, and our People, do not *rejoyce* and shew ourselves *glad in it*, with a religious as well as civil Joy, our Stupidity and Ingratitude will be an Evidence, how unworthy we are of the Favours of Heaven wherewith we are distinguish'd.

WE again see *the Princes*, the Legislators of the People, even *the People of the God of Abraham*, gathered together; not only in the *State-House* to dispatch the publick Business, but in the *Lord's-House* to pay Him their publick Homage, and to learn their Duty to Him *by inquiring in his Temple*:
 Psal. 47,9. And since *the Shields of the Earth do belong unto God*, it is fit He should in this Way be exalted by them.

OUR present Rulers desire this publick Day may continue to wear the Garb of Religion, not only *out of Custom*, and in Conformity to the Practice of their Ancestors; but, we trust, *from a Sense of Duty*, and because they inherit a good Measure of the same Spirit of Piety and Devotion, which was the distinguishing Glory of the Fathers of our Country.

I know your *Excellency*, and the honourable *Counsellors*, who have order'd me into the sacred Desk on this great Occasion, don't expect from me, either an Address of Compliment, or a Lecture in Politicks; both of which are as distant from my Genius, as they would be disagreeable to my Character. That which you have called me to is, as a Gospel Minister, to direct you from the Word of God, and remember you of your Duty as Christian Magistrates; which I shall accordingly endeavour, by divine Help, with all Fidelity, and a proper
 Deference

Deference : And I don't know how I can better do this, than from the solemn Passage I have just read.

IF then you are come together to *hear what God the Lord has to say unto you*, the Message bro't you in his Name, by the unworthiest of his Ministers, is this, *Serve the LORD with Fear, and rejoyce with Trembling. Kiss the SON lest He be angry, &c.*

THE *Psalms* of which our Text is the Close, is a prophetick Discourse of the Kingdom of the *Messiah*. It foretells the *Opposition* which would be given to that Kingdom, when it should be set up in the World. Tho' the Laws of this Kingdom, and the Administration of it, are every way suited to make the Subjects thereof easy and happy ; and the Nature of it is such, that if it did universally obtain, it would make the Kingdoms of this World resemble the Kingdom of Heaven ; for it *consists in Righteous-* Rom. 14.7
ness, and Peace, and Joy in the Holy Ghost ; yet such are the Prejudices of Men, that they not only refuse to become the Subjects of this Kingdom themselves, but do their utmost to prevent its Establishment and Spread in the World. And this Opposition is *general*, made by all sorts of Persons ; not only the common Rout, from whom little better is to be expected, but the Kings and Rulers are engag'd in it ; as if they tho't the Reign of Christ would eclipse their Glory, and diminish their Authority. These back their Strength and Power with Policy and Counsel. *The Kings of the Earth set themselves, and the Rulers take Counsel* ver. 2, 3.
together

together, against the Lord, and against his Anointed, saying, Let us break their Bands asunder, and cast away their Cords from us.

BUT for the Comfort of all those who have heartily espous'd the Interests of Christ, and are the faithful Subjects of his Kingdom, the Vanity and *Unsuccessfulness* of this Opposition follow. Their Attempts will certainly be defeated, and their Counsels baffled, however confident they may be of carrying their Point. The most High controls their Rage, and derides their Folly. *Why do the Heathen rage, and the People imagine a vain Thing?*

1. & 4. v. *He that sitteth in the Heavens shall laugh, the Lord shall have them in Derision.* For the Thing they attempt is not only unlikely, but impossible. The Kingdom of Christ is better establish'd than any of the Monarchies of the World. It is founded upon an irrevocable Decree of God the Father, from which he cannot recede in Point of Honour. This eternal Purpose and Resolve, which lay hid in the divine Counsels from the Days of Eternity,

6, 7, 8. v. *is publish'd with Solemnity: Yet have I set my King upon my holy Hill of Zion. I will declare the Decree; the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son, this Day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the Heathen for thine Inheritance, and the utmost Parts of the Earth for thy Possession.* Nay; The Opposition will issue not only in a vexatious and shameful Disappointment, but in the dreadful, utter and irrecoverable Ruin of all that are in the cursed Confederacy. The Honours of this divine King will be sufficiently vindicated; and they who would not submit to his gracious Sceptre, shall be

v. 9. *broken with his iron Rod. Thou shalt break them with*

AN ELECTION SERMON.

with a Rod of Iron, thou shalt dash them in Pieces like a Potters Vessel; so suddenly, easily, and irreparably.

Now our Text is the *Application* of all this, by way of Counsel and Admonition, to Persons of the highest Rank and Order in the World, as more especially concerned in it. And here we may observe, 1, The Persons to whom the Counsel is address'd. 2, The Counsel that is given them. And 3, The Arguments and Motives with which it is enforc'd. These three Divisions of the Text may be the general Heads of our Discourse: And, if I mistake not, they will furnish us with Matter proper for this Occasion; and naturally suggest to us such weighty Things, as will concern every Person of whatever Degree or Station, in this large Assembly.

I. THE first Thing then that falls under our Observation is, *The Persons to whom the Counsel in our Text is address'd*: And these are the *Kings and Judges of the Earth*. That is, Sovereign Princes and their Under-Officers; all Magistrates, both the supream and the subordinate; those that have the legislative, and those that have the executive Power, in the Government of any People.

THE *Office of the Magistracy* is here suppos'd at least; the *Institution of Government* conceled to if not asserted: For some Persons are here address'd as vested with Authority and Rule.

NOTHING in the World is plainer than this,
That it is the Mind and Will of God that there
B should

should be Magistracy in the World ; that Men should be govern'd by Laws and Polity, and kept in Order by this Means.

SURELY no one can doubt whether the Foundation of civil Government is laid in divine Institution, who but reads, without a Comment, such Texts as these. Prov. 8. 15. *By me Kings reign, and Princes decree Justice : By me Princes rule, and Nobles, even all the Judges of the Earth.* Rom. 13. 1, 2. *Let every Soul be subject unto the higher Powers. For there is no Power but of God : The Powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth, resisteth the Ordinance of God.* 1 Pet. 2. 13, 14. *Submit your selves to every Ordinance of Man for the Lord's sake. Whether it be to the King as supream, or to Governors as sent by him ; for the Punishment of Evil Doers, and for the Praise of them that do well. For so is the Will of God -----*

AND this is the Dictate of *Reason*, as well as the Voice of Scripture. The very Light of Nature gives a sufficient Indication of the Mind of God in this Matter : For all Nations, how barbarous soever, have united in some Kind of Government or other, for their common Peace and Safety ; nor can any Number of Men continue any Time, without something of Law and Rule ; which shews that Government is from God as the Author of Nature.

IT is as truly as commonly said, *Nothing is more unequal than Equality.* Neither the Beauty nor Benefit of the World will allow it. The Notion
of

of *Levelism* has as little Foundation in Nature as in Scripture. If we look up to the *Heavens*, there ^{1 Cor. 15} is one Glory of the Sun, and another Glory of the ^{41.} Moon, and another Glory of the Stars; neither are these of the same Magnitude and Lustre, but one Star differeth from another Star in Glory. And if we look round the *Earth*, we see it is not cast into a Level; it has Mountains and Plains, Hills and Vallies. Even so in the *political World*, there are the Distinctions of Superiours and Inferiours, Rulers and Ruled, publick and private Orders of Men: Some sit on the Throne of Majesty, some at the Council Table, and some on the Bench of Justice; and some hold subordinate Places of Power; while others serve their Generation only in a private Capacity.

AMONG the native Spirits of Heaven, the holy *Angels*, who have their abode in the Realms of Light and Purity above, where there are no Lusts to be restrain'd, it is suppos'd there are not only different Degrees of Excellence, but different Offices and Employments. It has been tho't a sufficient Foundation for this Conjecture, that we read of *Thrones, Dominions, Principalities and Powers*, in Col. 1. 16, the heavenly Places. And if *Man* had retain'd his primitive Holiness, and his Nature not been stain'd with Sin as now it is, there would doubtless have been Government in this lower World, and within the Circle of Paradise it self; not coercive or punitive, for there could then be no Occasion for that; but directive, and conservative of Superiority and Inferiority, such as will be in the heavenly State after our Saviour shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God, even the Father.

BUT how necessary is Government, even in the severer Restraints of it, for Man in his present fallen and corrupt State? To how much greater a Height wou'd Wickedness rise, if there were none to be a *Terror to evil Doers*? If all Men were left to their unrestrain'd Liberty, what an uncomfortable and dangerous Place would this World be? What vexatious and uneasy Companions wou'd Men be to one another? And how wou'd this Earth resemble the Hell of the Damned? They that now enjoy the Pleasures and Advantages of Society, wou'd be ready to wish they could dwell solitary in the Wilderness. And good Men more especially wou'd have Reason to utter *David's* Complaint, with a heavy Accent, *Wo is me, that I* Ps. 120. 5. *sojourn in Mesech, that I dwell in the Tents of Kedar!* Among a People rude and barbarous, hateful and hating; govern'd not by Reason and Religion, but only by Will and Lust.

THEREFORE God's good Will to Men, and Concern for their Happiness, appears next to the Gospel and the Ministry of it, in the *Institution of Magistracy*; his appointing that Men, in their present State, shou'd be govern'd by Men. If the World was to be constantly govern'd by God in a more *immediate* way, by a Voice from Heaven, and such awful Appearances of the divine Majesty as those on Mount *Sinai*, when he delivered his Law to his People *Israel*; as this would not so well agree with that State of Probation the World is now in, in which Men are to *walk by Faith and* 2 Cor. 5. 7. *not by Sight*, so it would not suit the present Frailty of our Nature.

THE People of *Israel* found this by Experience, in the Day when God promulg'd his Law to them, in a way suited to his own Majesty and Greatness. They could not bear it. They were struck into such Amazement and Terror, as to make it their humble Request that he would please to go into a Method of Government more suited to Spirits in Flesh ; and that they might *no more hear the Voice* Exod. 20. *of the Lord, lest they shou'd die*: And God granted 19. their Request, and in Condesention to their Weakness and Infirmary, when the Government over *Israel* was a *Theocracy*, he used the Ministry of Men in the Management of it. Truly, the accurate Wisdom and compassionate Goodness of God are seen, in governing as well as teaching us by *Men* like our selves.

THIS does not indeed lessen the *Obligations to Obedience* ; for *he that despiseth, despiseth not Man but God*: But it is a very good Reason why we shou'd make favourable Allowances for the Defects and Failings of Rulers. They are *but Men*; of the same Make and Constitution with Others, of like Passions and Appetites, under all the Weaknesses and Corruptions of human Nature since the Fall, and beset with the like and with some peculiar Temptations. We should not therefore place an undue Confidence in them, nor expect too much from them. To be sure, a perfect Conduct and Administration we must not look for. And their Mistakes and Mismanagement, whether in private or publick Life, shou'd not be too severely censur'd. To *pray more* for Rulers, and *talk less* against them, wou'd many Times be a *better Way* to get some Things amended.

I don't mean that out of Reverence to Authority, we shou'd resign common Understanding and the publick Interest, to Men in Power: Nor wou'd I be tho't to deny the Right which every private Man, as he is a Member of the Body, and his Interest is involv'd in that of the Publick, has to judge of the Conduct of publick Affairs. No ; *I am too deep in the Principles of Liberty*, to mean any thing like this. But this I say, the Censure of Rulers should be in matters of which we are able in some good Measure to form a Judgment, upon Things apparent, and where Facts may be compar'd together ; and always manag'd with Decency, and temper'd with Charity.— Nor shou'd we presently vote those to be ill Men, Enemies of their Country, regardless of its Interests, or designing its Ruin, who don't judge with the Populace, or go into the Measures which others think best. For Persons equal in Integrity and Love to their Country, may judge very differently about the publick Interests.

WHAT we have spoken of the divine Institution of Government, you all understand to be meant of *Government it self*, and not of any particular Form or Model of it : For one is no more appointed by God than another ; but every People are left to judge for themselves, to frame such a Constitution as may best answer the Ends of Government for them, and to alter and change *that too* at Discretion, and by common Consent.

THE *Kingly Government* is mentioned in our Text ; but is not to be understood exclusive of other Forms. And all Persons are for Conscience sake to yield Obedience to the Laws and Magistrates

trates under which they live, and from which they receive the Benefit of Protection; whether in Kingdoms or Common Wealths; and whether the Government does or does not descend by hereditary Right.

The same Model of Government would not suit every People; their Genius, Scituation, and other Circumstances are so curious. It is therefore an Instance of the Kindness of God that he has not prescrib'd one for all Nations. And by the various Forms of civil Government, which there are among the Nations of the Earth, the Wisdom of God in the Government of the World in general, is rendered the more illustrious and admirable.

OF the various Forms of civil Government which are in the World, some are undoubtedly *much better* than others, and it is a greater Happiness to live under one than another of them. The Consideration of this shou'd make us thankful for our Privilege as ENGLISH-MEN; which is to live under the happiest Constitution in the World, if compar'd in its proper Lineaments with other Governments. For as was justly observ'd by a noble *Patriot* of the last Age † “ This Govern-
 “ ment has as it were extracted the Good of all
 “ other Constitutions, having avoided the two
 “ Extrems of Tyranny and an unbounded Liberty;
 “ no Government under the Sun being so exact
 “ a piece of Symetry, having so nicely pois'd the
 “ Prerogative and Property that they are mutu-
 “ ally assistant of each other. ”

† Lord Delamere.

AND if we consider our selves as NEW-ENGLISH MEN, our Obligation to Thankfulness rises still *higher* : For we enjoy not only the Immunities and Liberties of natural Subjects born in the Realm of *England*, but have some additional ones granted and affirmed to us by a *Royal Charter*, which is as a Hedge about our dearest and most valuable Interests : So that none can with more Justness, and greater Propriety than our selves, use those thankful Words of the Psalmist, *The Lines are fallen to us in pleasant Places, yea we have a goodly Heritage.* May there never be among the Sons of *New-England*, any such *profane Person* as Esau, who *despised and sold his Birth-right* !

Psalm 16.6.

Heb. 12. 16.

WE have been saying, GOD has in Kindness to Men appointed that they shou'd be govern'd by Men ; yet, He has been *too good and kind to leave them to be govern'd by Men according to their arbitrary Will and Pleasure.* The End of Government is the publick Peace and Safety ; when therefore this is neglected, and the Ordinance of Government only made an Engine of Tyranny and Oppression ; when the Constitution is subverted, the Liberties and Properties of the People invaded, their Religion and Laws made a Sacrifice to the Superstition, Ambition, or Covetousness of the Prince that is over them ; when this is *really the Case*, as it has been in *our own Nation*, doubtless the Remedy is left in their own Hands, and every Man is under higher and earlier Engagements to the Community in general, than he is to the supream Magistrate.

HE

HE that has freed his People from their *spiritual Task-masters*, has not left them under the Power of *earthly Tyrants*. The Rules of Obedience laid down in the Gospel oblige none to submit to unlawful Impositions. It is mention'd to the Reproach of *Issachar*, that the Men of that Tribe wanted the true Spirit of Liberty; *Issachar is a strong Ass, couching down between two Burdens: He bowed his Shoulder to bear, and became a Servant unto Tribute.* Gen. 49:14, 15

AND tho' GOD has not prescrib'd any one Form of Government in Scripture, yet he has therein given *general Rules* to be observ'd by all that are in Government. The civil Magistrate's Commission is thus limited by the great Monarch of the World, *He that ruleth over Men must be just, ruling in the Fear of God.* Sam. 2:3

AND that they may'nt be unmindful of the Duties of their Station, he has appointed *another Order* of Men to be their faithful and humble Monitors; I mean, the *Ministers of Religion*. For Ministers are as truly the Magistrates *Teachers*, as Magistrates are their *Governours*: And as we must put our People in Mind to be subject to *Principalties and Powers, to obey Magistrates*; so we must put Magistrates in Mind to be subject to the *Lord Jesus Christ*, and use their Power in a Subserviency to the Interests of His Kingdom. Tit. 3:1

THIS leads us to the second Thing to be consider'd in the Words, which is,

II. THE solemn *Counsel* here given to earthly Rulers of all Degrees : *Serve the LORD ; Kiss the SON.*

THE same *Person* is here meant by the *Lord*, and the *Son* ; namely, the *Lord Jesus Christ*, God-man, Mediator.

THE *Duty requir'd* is express'd two Ways. They must *serve* him, as those that are in Subjection to him, in all the Instances of Devotion and Obedience. They are to *kiss* him ; with a Kiss of *Adoration* and *Worship* : They that worship'd Idols kiss'd them ; for we read of the People, 1 King. 19. 18. their *kissing* of Baal, and *kissing the Calves*.---
Hof. 13. 2. With a Kiss of *Allegiance* and *Loyalty* : So when *Samuel* anointed *Saul*, he *kissed him*, and said, *It is because the Lord hath anointed thee to be Captain over his Inheritance.* And with a Kiss of *Affection* and *Love* : So 'tis a common Custom in the World for Friends to salute one another : And the Usage in some Courts, is to kiss the Hand of the Prince, in token of Subjection to his Government, and Affection to his Person.
1 Sam. 10. 1.

I take the Words to be comprehensive of the Duty of Rulers in their *double Capacity* ; the private and the publick ; as Christians and as Magistrates.

I. RULERS are, as *Men* and as *Christians*, oblig'd to the *general Service* of Christ, in *common with others*. And the Service of Christ includes in it, *real inward Religion*, and *practical Godliness* in all the Parts of it.

HERE

HERE many Particulars offer themselves to our Tho'ts, which are in themselves worthy of Enlargement : But I must content my self with a few comprehensive Hints, in opening to you the Character of a Servant of Christ in his *single* or *private Capacity*.

A Servant of Christ is one who has parted with his *old Masters* ; fallen off from his Allegiance to, and renounc'd the Service of those *other Lords* ^{Isa. 26.13.} which *have had Dominion over him* ; Satan and the World.

HE has actually *submitted* to the Government of the Lord Jesus Christ, *taken his Yoke upon him*, ^{Psal. 119. 106.} and sworn Allegiance to him.

AND now,

HE *obeys all his Laws*, and makes *his Will* the Rule of all his Actions ; how contrary soever to his own Will or Humour, Ease or Interest. He sits at the Feet of his divine Master, and makes that Inquiry, with a sincere Resolution to obey, *Lord, what wilt thou have me to do ? Or, Good Master,* ^{Acts 9. 6. Luk. 14.25} *what shall I do to inherit eternal Life ?*

HE therefore *attends upon all his Institutions*, those Ordinances which Christ has appointed to shew his Authority over, and Care for his Church. He religiously observes the *Sabbaths of the Lord*, constantly frequents the *solemn Assembly*, reverently hears his *Word preach'd* by his Ministers, and devoutly attends upon the Administration of the *holy Sacraments*. He will neglect *none of these*, lest he ^{1 Cor} should

should seem to shew Contempt to him that has appointed them, or want the Badge and Livery of his great Lord and Master.

MOREOVER,

HE follows his divine Master's *Example*, and desires to copy the Life of the holy *Jesus* into his own; and will *follow no Man*, of what Name or Figure soever, any farther than he sees him to
1 Cor. 11. 1 *follow Christ*.

THE Servant of Christ does also resign to his *Conduct* without Reserve, and is determin'd to *follow the Lamb whither soever he goes*, and not to
Rev. 14. 4 *turn from following after him*, whatever Opposition and Danger may be in the Way.

ONCE more,

A true Servant of Christ makes the *Glory of Christ* his chief and governing *Aim*; and, both habitually and actually, directs his Actions, in the best Manner he can, towards this great End. It is his highest Ambition to please his *Master in Heaven*, and he will make all lower Designs give Place to this. He pursues his Honour and Approbation in every Relation wherein he stands, in every Station he fills, and with every Talent committed to him. And in this he *labours, that*
2 Cor. 5. 9 *whether present or absent*, both in this World and the next, he *may be accepted of Him*; and then
1 Cor. 4. 3 *'tis a small Thing with him to be judged of Mans Judgment*.

To

To this Service of Christ there are *some* special *Adjuncts* annex'd in our Text, *Joy, Fear, and Trust. Serve the Lord with Fear, and rejoice with Trembling : Blessed are they that trust in him.*

THE Service of Christ should be accompanied with *Rejoycing*. *Let the Children of Zion be joyful* ^{Psa. 149. 2.} *in their King.* They should rejoyce that they have such a Master to serve ; and shew themselves cheerful in his Service, as those that chuse it, and are not forc'd into it ; as those that like it, and would not go free from it. So the People of *Judah* in the Days of *Asa* bound themselves to the Service of GOD, not only with great Solemnity, but with great Cheerfulness, and all possible Expressions of Joy. *They sware unto the Lord with a loud Voice, and with Shouting, and with Trumpets,* ^{2 Chro. 15. 14, 15.} *and with Cornets. And all Judah rejoiced at the Oath : for they had sworn with all their Hearts, and sought him with their whole Desire.*

BUT this rejoicing well consists with *Fear* and *Trembling*, and should be always temper'd therewith. We shou'd *serve the Lord with Fear, and* ^{Heb. 12. 28, 29.} *rejoice with Trembling*, because as he is a gracious so he is a *jealous* GOD, who can't be deceiv'd and *will not be mocked* ; who regards the Intention as well as the Action ; who looks into the Heart, and sees thro' all Disguises. His Servants therefore should always maintain a holy Jealousie lest they come short of his Approbation and Acceptance ; and at the same time that they rejoice in the Hopes of his Favour, should tremble in the Tho'ts of ever falling under his Displeasure. And while we thus submit to the Lord Jesus Christ,
and

and serve him with holy Joy and Fear as^r our *Sovereign*, we must also *trust* in him as our *Saviour*; and renouncing all other Dependance whatsoever, as satisfactory and meritorious, must repair to his Obedience and Atonement, as the only Refuge of guilty Souls, and Ground of a Sinners Acceptance with GOD: We must so trust in Christ as to have *no Confidence in the Flesh*; and never go about to *establish a Righteousness of our own*, but

Phil. 3. 3. submit our selves to the *Righteousness of God*; desiring to be found in Him, not having on our own

9. v. *Righteousness which is of the Law, but that which is thro' the Faith of Christ, the Righteousness which is of God by Faith.*--- This it is to *serve the Lord*: This is a brief general Account of personal Religion, and *real Christianity*; which may be summ'd up in these two Words, *Subjection to and Dependance on the Lord Jesus Christ*.

WE may collect from it, How great a Thing it is to be a *Christian indeed*! And the Reason we have to fear that Christ has but *few* true and real Servants, among those who wear the christian Name, and take upon them the christian Character.

Now, *Kings and Judges* are *as strictly bound* to serve the Lord in all the Instances of personal Religion, and practical Godliness, as *any of their*

Rom. 10. *People*. For there is *the same Lord over all*; who

12. stands in the same Relations to *them* that he does to *others*; as Creator, Lawgiver and Judge. There is the *same infinite Distance* between Him and them, that there is between Him and the lowest of their Subjects. They are under the *common Obligations* of Christians, by their Birth in and

Baptism

Baptism into the christian Church, and their Profession of the christian Religion. They must be fav'd, if ever they are so, upon the *same Terms*, and in the *same Way*, that others are. In Matters of Religion, in the Concerns of Salvation, they are without Priviledge or Dispensation. The Gospel makes no Distinction between them and others in these Things; but the Commands of it are address'd to *them* in common with Persons of lower Degrees in Life. Psal. 49. 1, 2. *Hear this all ye People; give ear, all ye Inhabitants of the World: Both Low and High, Rich and Poor together.* Psal. 148. 11, 12. *Kings of the Earth, and all People; Princes and all Judges of the Earth. Both young Men and Maidens, old Men and Children; let them praise the Name of the Lord.*

IF there is any Difference, these are *more strictly bound* to observe the Laws of Christ than others; because the Eminency of their Station, will make their Conversation to be the more observ'd; and their Example will be like to have the greater Influence upon Inferiours. *A City set upon a Hill cannot be hid*; was our Saviour's Observation: And he made it for the sake of that Exhortation and Charge which follows, *Let your Light so shine* ^{Mat. 5. 14, 12.} *before Men, that they may see your good Works, and glorifie your Father which is in Heaven.*

2. RULERS are to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in their *publick Capacity*, and in the Exercise of their Office as *Magistrates*. And it is in this Capacity more especially that our Text addresses them.

AND

AND so they are to consider themselves as Christ's *Ministers* and *Stewards*, plac'd in their Stations to serve him and his Interests.

THEREFORE,

THEY must not *seek* Themselves, and *their own* Phil. 2.21. *Things*, to the Neglect of *the Things of Jesus Christ*. If they are covetous and Self seeking, and aim at Nothing but gratifying their own Ambition, raising Themselves and Families, enlarging their Honours and Estates, this is not to serve Christ, but to serve themselves *of him*; and to prostitute their high Office to low Ends.

MUCH less must they carry on any *cross Designs*, or do any thing in Opposition to his Kingdom, or that may damage his Interests. They must not therefore persecute his Saints, silence his Ministers, hinder the free Exercise of his holy Religion, or do any Thing that may obstruct the Work of the Gospel; as the Rulers of the *Jews* did when they imprison'd the Professors of Christianity, and forbid the Apostles to preach in the Name of Jesus.

THEY must make no Laws that are *repugnant to, or inconsistent with* the settled Laws of Christ's Kingdom. For altho' GOD has given this Power to all Kingdoms and Nations to make Laws for the better Support and Government of themselves, yet he has not given them Leave to repeal any of his own Laws, nor to enact any Thing contrary to *them*. It is usual for a Prince, when he grants a *Charter* to a City or Company within his Dom-
nions

nions, to give Power therein to make *By-Laws* for the Management of the Affairs of that Community, provided they be no way repugnant to his own or the common Laws of his Kingdom ; if they be, they are null from the beginning. And so are those Laws made in any particular Kingdom of the World, if they be in the least contrary to any of the common Laws of the World, those which the *King of Kings* hath made for all Mankind, both Kings and People to observe. In such a Case, the general Law is, that *we must obey GOD Acts 5.29. rather than Man.*

THE BIBLE therefore, which is the great *Statute Book of Heaven*, must be consulted by the Rulers of a People, and they must frame their Administration by the general Laws there laid down. The Kings of *Israel* were commanded by GOD to write for themselves *a Copy of the Law*, and to *read therein all the Days of their Lives*, that they Deut. 17. might *learn to fear the Lord their God, and to keep* 18, 19. *all the Words of his Law.* And *Jebojada* gave to *Joash* the *Testimony* with the *Crown*, when he 2 Kings, anointed him King : Which carries this Instruction 11. 12. in it, That those in Government over GOD's People, shou'd acquaint themselves well with his holy Word, and shou'd have an inviolable Regard to the Laws of Christ in the whole of their Administration.

MOREOVER,

CHRISTIAN Magistrates must employ their Power for the *Advancement* of Christ's Kingdom. They are in a *Lieutenancy* to Christ; and so they are to concur with *Him* in carrying on the same
D Design

AND so they are to consider themselves as Christ's *Ministers* and *Stewards*, plac'd in their Stations to serve him and his Interests.

THEREFORE,

THEY must not *seek* Themselves, and *their own* Phil. 2.21. *Things*, to the Neglect of *the Things of Jesus Christ*. If they are covetous and Self seeking, and aim at Nothing but gratifying their own Ambition, raising Themselves and Families, enlarging their Honours and Estates, this is not to serve Christ, but to serve themselves *of him*; and to prostitute their high Office to low Ends.

MUCH less must they carry on any *cross Designs*, or do any thing in Opposition to his Kingdom, or that may damage his Interests. They must not therefore persecute his Saints, silence his Ministers, hinder the free Exercise of his holy Religion, or do any Thing that may obstruct the Work of the Gospel; as the Rulers of the *Jews* did when they imprison'd the Professors of Christianity, and forbid the Apostles to preach in the Name of Jesus.

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Matt. 28. Design for which *all Power is given to Him, both*
18. *in Heaven and in Earth.*

TRUE indeed, the *Care of Souls* is not committed to the civil Magistrate; nor may he extend his Power to *force* Articles of Faith, or Modes of Worship, on the Consciences of Men: For Conscience is exempt from every Jurisdiction but *Christ's*; and He alone must reign there. Yet we must not run into the other Extream, and say that the Magistrate has *nothing to do* in Matters of Religion.

As they rule *by* Christ, so they are oblig'd to rule *for* Him; and therefore to protect and encourage the Practice of his holy Religion; to guard and defend GOD's sacred Name, Day and Institutions, from the Insults of those who wou'd openly profane and trample upon them; and to restrain and punish those Vices and Immoralities, which are as contrary to the Laws of Christ as they are to the Welfare of Societies: For the very End of their Office is, the *Punishment of evil Doers, and the Praise of them that do well*; and this is the Design of their Institution, that *under them we may lead quiet and peaceable Lives in all Godliness and Honesty.*

1 Pet. 2. 14.

1 Tim 2. 2.

IN a word,

THEY shou'd openly profess the Religion of Christ, publickly espouse his Cause, and zealously promote it as far as ever their Authority and Influence will reach; and should strenuously set themselves against every thing that is opposite to his Interest, against the Works and Kingdom of the

the *Devil* which our blessed Saviour came into the World to *destroy*.

1 Joh. 3. 8.

THERE is a War carried on in this World, between the *rightful King* and the *usurping God of it*; between Christ and Satan; and whoever stands neuter, *Magistrates*, who are Christ's Officers, must not: If they do, they are *Traitors* to his Crown and Government, and must expect from him the highest Resentment, and the severest Punishment. Which leads us the third and last thing observ'd in the Words.

III. THE *Arguments* and *Motives* with which the divine Counsel here given to the *Kings* and *Judges of the Earth* is enforc'd.

AND the

1st REASON or Argument may be taken from the *Wisdom of such a Conduct*. Be wise now therefore, O ye *Kings*: be instructed ye *Judges of the Earth*. *Serve the Lord*, &c.

WISDOM is a very requisite Qualification in Rulers. Without this they will make but a poor Figure, and both their Persons and Authority fall into Contempt. Now, to serve the Lord, *Behold! this is Wisdom*. When Rulers do *this*, they engross all the Rules of Policy into one.

FOR,

THIS is the way to have the Presence of Christ with them in their Administration, to direct their Counsels, and succeed their Endeavours for the publick Good; without which their own Policy and Power will be in vain; the wisest Schemes will be baffled, and the most promising Enterprizes

defeated. Whatever the *wise Men after the Flesh* may think, the Rules of Religion steadily pursu'd by those entrusted with the publick Affairs of a People, will be found to conduce more to the true Ends of Government, than all the Maxims of carnal Policy. 1 Sam. 23. 3, 4. *He that ruleth over Men must be just, ruling in the Fear of God: And he shall be as the Light of the Morning, when the Sun riseth, even a Morning without Clouds; as the tender Grass springing out of the Earth by clear shining after Rain.* i. e. The religious Ruler will be a great common and extensive Blessing, like the Light and Rain of Heaven.

THIS is also the best way to *secure and exalt their own Character*. For, if a serious and strict Regard to Religion runs thro' their Conduct, both in private and publick Life; if they appear to act in the Fear of God, and with a governing View to the Honour of Christ, this will certainly make them look more great and venerable in the Eyes of the People, than any shining Titles or glittering Badges of Honour which they wear: This will procure them not only outward but *inward* Reverence. When Piety is found in Conjunction with Greatness, the Person shines with a diviner Lustre, and the Authority wherewith he is vested strikes into a greater Awe, and more powerfully constrains Submission and Obedience. So *Joshua* Josh. 4. 14. *was magnified in the sight of all Israel.*

Thus they will be likely to *sit easy in their Posts of Honour*; not only from the Consciousness of their own Integrity, which will always give them inward Peace, and raise their Minds above the Censures and Clamours of ignorant and disaffected Persons;

Persons ; but also from the Acceptance which their faithful Endeavours will find among the Generality of their People. For as bad as the World is, *when the Righteous are in Authority, the People rejoice.* Common People, and even vicious People, are under such a Conviction of the Excellency of Virtue and Religion, that they can't but take Satisfaction when they see it *exalted to great Dignity.*

MOREOVER,

THIS is the most likely way for them to be *establiſh'd and continued in their Authority*, and to have their publick Opportunities and Advantages lengthned out by that GOD *in whose hand their Times are.* For it stands in the Book of GOD as an Argument why the King should above all Things mind Religion, *To the end that he may prolong his Days in his Kingdom.* Deut. 17.20. Agreeably (as one observes) we find in the History of the Kings of *Judah*, that generally the best Reigns were the longest, except when GOD shortned them for the Punishment of the People, as *Josiah's*. Or, this will minister pleasing Reflections to them, and give them a Satisfaction *divinely calm*, if they see Others fill the Stations they have held ; or in the near Approach of *Death*, and Prospect of their *final Account* to GOD the Judge of all. *Be wise now therefore, O ye Kings ; be instructed ye Judges of the Earth : Serve the Lord, &c.*

2. IF we consider the *Dignity of this glorious Person* whom the *Kings and Judges of the Earth* are commanded to *serve*, there will appear the
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2. IF we consider the *Dignity of this glorious Person* whom the *Kings and Judges of the Earth* are commanded to *serve*, there will appear the
highest

highest Reason why they shou'd obey the Command: He is the LORD ; the SON.

CHRIST is here spoken of both with Respect to his eternal Deity, and his Office of Mediator. He is the *Son of GOD* by eternal Generation ; and he is the *Son of Man*, i. e. God-man, Mediator: And all Men are bound to serve him, not only on Account of his eternal Deity, but his Office as Mediator. His Supremacy over the World, is a Prerogative annex'd to his being Head of the Church. For GOD hath now *set him at his own*
 Eph. 1. 21. *right Hand, far above all Principality, and Power, and Might, and Dominion, and every Name that is named, not only in this World, but in that which is to come ; and hath put all things under his Feet, and given him to be Head over all Things to the Church, which is his Body.* So that he is Lord Paramount of the whole Creation. He has a Title both by Inheritance and by Appointment. A natural and delegated right. A *natural* one, as he is the true
 John 1. 3. *GOD, by whom were all things made that are made ;* and a *delegated* one, as he is Mediator: So he is invested by the Father, who is the Fountain of Power, with the sole Administration of Government, in the Kingdom of Providence as well as of Grace. Thus he is *the King of Kings, and Lord*
 Psal. 72. 11 *of Lords, the blessed and the only Potentate: All Kings shall bow down before him, and all Nations shall serve him.*

THE Title and Character of *Lord* given to Christ in the Text, suggests to us these following Reasons why the *Kings and Judges of the Earth*, Rulers of all Degrees, should serve him.

I. HE

I. HE is the LORD, and so their Authority is deriv'd from him. It is so with respect to the *Constitution of Government* it self: for Dominion and Rule are his Appointment in the World; the Original of Power is from Heaven, as has been shewn already. --- And it is so with respect to the *Designation of the Persons* cloathed with it. In whatever Way, by whatever Means and Methods, Men are advanc'd to their several Stations, the Providence of the Lord Jesus Christ is to be acknowledg'd and ador'd therein. For *both Riches* I Chron. 29. 12. *and Honour come of thee; and in thy hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.* We many times see strange and unexpected Turns, and are surpriz'd at the sudden Disgrace of some, and Elevation of others: But we should consider that *the most high ruleth in the Kingdom of Men,* Dan. 4. 12. *and giveth it to whomsoever he will.* Preferments depend not on the Will of the People when they chuse, nor on the Will of the Prince when he appoints; but on the Will of GOD who has all Hearts in his Hand. This is a great Truth respecting GOD's providential Government of the World, which the Psalmist has instructed us in, *Psal. 75. 6, 7. Promotion cometh neither from the East, nor from the West, nor from the South; but God is the Judge: He putteth down one, & setteth up another.* When there are Candidates for an Election into a Post of Government, and a Struggle among the Electors, the King of the World sits Umpire, and in a powerful tho' invifible Way, determines the matter, so as to bring about his own Counfels, and serve his own Purposes. *The Lot is cast into the Lap, but the whole disposing thereof* Pro. 16. 33 *is of the Lord.* This is a good Reason why they
who

who are in publick Stations shou'd serve Christ in them, because He has plac'd them where they are. Since *of him, and thro' him, are all things*, as the Fountain and Conveyance; all things shou'd be *to him*, as the ultimate End. So the Rivers pay a constant Tribute to the Sea, whence they all come.

Rom. 11.
36.

2. HE is the LORD, and so their Authority is *dependant on him*. They are dependant on him as to the *Exercise of their Rule*. He has not given them an absolute Power, but restrain'd and limited them by certain general Rules and Instructions, to which they must conform. The Glory of his Supremacy he will not give to another ----- And they are also dependant on him as to their *Continuance in their Authority*. They hold their Places only during Pleasure. He that gave them their Commission, can revoke or superceed it whenever he pleases.

IT was an Instance of the papal Pride and Arrogance, when the *Pope* after he had crown'd an Emperor kneeling, immediately with his Foot kick'd off his Crown again, as an emblematical Boast of his Power to make and unmake Kings at his Pleasure. But this is a Right which belongs to, and is actually exercis'd by Christ the Lord, who is *God over all blessed for ever*: A Flower in his Crown, who is *King of Kings, and Lord of Lords*. He *removeth Kings, and setteth up Kings*. He *cutteth off the Spirit of Princes, and is terrible to the Kings of the Earth*.

Rom. 9.5.

Joel 2. 21.

Psal. 76. 12

Now

Now *Dependance* is always reckon'd a very good Reason for Service and Obedience: When this is the Case, Duty and Interest unite to strengthen the Obligation.

3. HE is the LORD, and so their Power is in *Subserviency* and *Subordination unto His*. They are ^{Rom. 13. 7} called *his Ministers*. Whatever Power they have it is but *ministerial*, and in order to Service. A Servant entrusted by his Lord may have many encouraging Privileges and Advantages for himself; yet the great End of his Employment and Advancement is his Masters Service and Profit. The Honour and Power of Rulers do not terminate in themselves; as if the Design of GOD in the Institution of Magistracy, was only to gratify a few particular Men, by raising them above the common Rank, and putting them into Authority for their Persons Sake, and only to make *them* look great. No! His End is the Service that is expected from them to GOD and Man, the Church and the World: And the Dignity is affix'd to the Person, as an Encouragement to, and a necessary Means of doing that Service. Their Places and Offices are given them with Reference to the Duty expected from them. And he is an unworthy Servant who when his Master has put him into an honourable Office, and given him large Encouragement to be faithful in the Business of it, only grows proud and insolent, and becomes regardless of his Masters Honour, and negligent of his Service.

4. HE is the LORD, and so they are *accountable to him* for their Conduct. Every Master expects

pects an Account from his Servants, what they have done in the Business he has employ'd them in ; and will take a proper Season to inquire into it. *The Lord of these Servants cometh, and will reckon with them, for the Improvement of their Power, Honour and Influence, which were Talents committed to them to occupy for Him.*

RULERS, as well as others, must appear before the Judgment of Christ ; to give an Account as well of their *publick* as of their private Life. *I saw the Dead small and great stand before God.* And here surely is a powerful Reason why they shou'd endeavour to acquit themselves as *good Stewards* of the *manifold Grace* of GOD, that so when they must give an Account of their Stewardship, they may do it *with Joy and not with Grief*, and may escape the Rebuke and Punishment of the wicked and unfaithful Servant. This brings me to a third Motive and Argument in the Text, which is taken from

3. THE *big's Displeasure of Christ*, and the *utter Ruin* consequent thereupon, which those Rulers who refuse to comply with this Counsel, will bring upon themselves. *Be wise now therefore, O ye Kings ; be instructed ye Judges of the Earth : Serve the Lord ; Kiss the Son ; lest He be ANGRY, and ye PERISH from the Way, when his Wrath is kindled but a little.*

“THE SON can be angry, tho' he be the Saviour. Gracious and condescending as he is, he can be severely angry. He has Jealousy as well as Love ; Wrath as well as Compassion and Grace. And if

if He be angry, who is the Mediator between GOD and Man, what will become of us ? who then will interceed for us with a GOD already offended ?

“ CHRIST is call'd the *Lamb*; yet he is *the* Rev. 5. 5.
Lion of the Tribe of Judah : and *the Wrath of*
this King, of this King of Kings, is *as the roaring*
of a Lion, and eno' to make the stoutest Heart to
tremble.

A *little* of his Wrath is eno' to be the Destruction of the Sinner. *Left ye perish in the way*, in the Course of your Sin and Rebellion against him, *when his Wrath is kindled but a little*. How then can the proudest Sinner stand before his *flaming Wrath*, when his Jealousie burns like Fire.

THE Kings and Judges of the Earth must not think themselves above the Resentment of Christ, or too big for him to deal with. He will be angry with *them* as soon as with others ; and they will be as little able to stand before his Indignation. Whatever Prerogatives they may lay claim to here, they will be of no Service to them in the Day of Death, and the Day of Judgment. *Tophet* Isa. 30. 33.
is ordain'd of old, for the King it is prepared, that will not submit to this King of Kings, and become his Servant.

NAY, he will *get* himself more *Honour* upon these, in the Execution of his righteous Displeasure against them, if they refuse to honour him now : For in Proportion to the Talents which Men have neglected or misimprov'd in this World, will be the Degrees of Wrath inflicted on them in the next.

And so we find *the Kings of the Earth, and the great*

Men are the foremost of those who in the great Day of the Wrath of the Lamb, will *run to the* Rev. 6. 15. *Rocks and Mountains* for Shelter, as if his Face carried more of Displeasure in it towards *them*. Let the Rulers of the World then be so wise as to give their Power to the Lord Jesus Christ, that they may not fall under his Displeasure; that they may be *accounted worthy to escape all these things* Luke 21. *which shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son* 36. *of Man*. This Counsel in our Text is inforc'd by one more Argument, which we may not quite pass over; and this is

4. *THE Happiness of this Submission*: BLESSED *are all they that put their trust in him*. That thus *submit* to him as their Sovereign, and put their *Trust* in him as their Saviour.

WHILE his Wrath burns against others, his Face will shine upon *these*. While his Appearance strikes others into killing Terrors, it will fill these with warmest Transports of Joy. Instead of that dreadful Order, *Take the wicked and unprofitable* Mat. 25. *Servant, and cast him into outer Darkness,* 30. they will hear that applauding commendation, Mat. 25. *Well done good and faithful Servant; and be bid* 21. *to enter into the Joy of their Lord*.

THEN *subordinate Rulers* who have well fill'd their lower Places, will have it said to them, *Thou has been faithful over a few things, I will* 23. v. *make the Ruler over many things*.

THEN the *Kings of the Earth* who religiously and dutifully cast their Crowns at the Feet of Christ, will have a weightier, brighter, and more durable

durable one than that which they wore here, set upon their Heads; the heavenly Crown of Glory and Life, of which they will never be depriv'd.

IN a word,

ALL they who have rul'd for Christ, in their several Orders of Government, shall at the Consummation of all Things, *reign with Him for ever and ever*; set down with him on his Throne, even as he is set down with his Father on his Throne. An Honour and Blessedness this, ineffable, inconceivable! What an Incentive is this to the Men of Ambition, that seek and court Honour! But, Oh! where is the Faith of it? ---- The Thing is future and invisible, therefore few believe it, and seek after it, tho' it be not the less real and certain.

THUS I have discours'd upon the Text in the several Divisions of it; and must hasten to bring Home what has been said in a distinct Application to the two Divisions, of *Rulers* and *Ruled*, which take in this whole Assembly.

AND,

I. OUR *honoured Rulers*, of every Degree and Order in the Government, are taught what their Duty to Christ is, and what are His just Expectations from them. Since he is the supream Lord, and the Fountain of Power: Since the Institution of Government is from Him, and your own Designation to your several Trusts and Offices is by him: Since you are employ'd in Subordination to him, and with a View to the same Design for which he has receiv'd all power in Heaven and Earth: Since you depend upon him, who is *Lord both of*
the

the Dead and Living, for the Continuance of your Lives and publick Advantages: Since you are accountable to him, and must very quickly render up your Account: And since you will then, according as you acquit your selves now, either fall under his terrible Displeasure which is worse than Death, or receive the distinguishing Marks of his Favour, which is better than Life in all the Honours or Injoyments of it: Since it is thus, I say, Duty, Gratitude and Interest conspire, all the Rules of Justice, Decency and Honour unite, to oblige you to act in your particular Posts and Stations, according to his Will, and for his Glory.

BUT it may be this Message of Heaven may the more awaken your thinking and active Powers, and come with a greater Force and Weight upon you, if it be more particularly applied.

WHEREFORE,

I. In the first place, let the Counsel of Heaven which has been given, be acceptable to your EXCELLENCY, to whom with a most dutiful Respect it is now address'd.

AND it is our great Pleasure and Happiness this Day, that we can address *our Governour in Chief*, as one who has openly chosen the LORD to serve him, and that in *the Way of these Churches*. Suffer me then, SIR, to remind you, That you publickly devoted your self to the Service of the exalted Son of GOD, when you had just entred the World in superiour outward Circumstances and Advantages; and it was a great Pleasure to your own and your
Fathers

Fathers Friends, and the Friends of Religion, then to observe it; from the Hopes it gave them that Christ and his People here would afterwards have much Service from you, by the Will of GOD: And doubtless you look upon your Covenant Obligations to be strengthn'd, by the Honours to which *Christ* in his Providence has since advanc'd you.

A *Servant of Jesus Christ*, is a Character which *Kings and Governours* have no reason to be asham'd of; a Title which they shou'd be ambitious of: For it will be found their truest Honour, when all the Glory of this World shall vanish like a Blaze in Straw; and will turn to their greatest Advantage, when all the Prerogatives they were posselt of here, will be forgotten and useless.

THE Honour of Christ and his Interest are very much concern'd in your *Excellency's* Conduct and Administration. Religion is not in such a State at this Day, but it needs the Example of the greatest amongst us to render it more reputable and honourable. But while your *Excellency* is seen to pay a solemn Regard to the Day of GOD, to attend with Reverence and Devotion upon his publick Worship, and to live in the Practice of those private and publick Vertues which adorn the Christian Character, *this* will go very far to prevent its falling into farther Contempt and Neglect.

ESPECIALLY if together with this the Honours of the Government, which are so much at your *Excellency's* Disposal, are conferr'd on true Piety, and not given in Course or out of Compliment. I humbly conceive your *Excellency* cannot give a better.

better Sanction and Security to the Religion that remains amongst us, than by this wise Distinction in your *Commissions* ----- And here, I think we shou'd be ungrateful to GOD and your *Excellency*, if we did not acknowledge the Countenance and Encouragement which the Religion of the Country has receiv'd, under your *Excellency's* Administration, from your Example and Authority both.

PROVIDENCE has plac'd your *Excellency* over a People, who stand in a special Relation to Christ, and are a distinguish'd Part of *the Lot of his Inheritance*: And all your faithful Services to *them*, He will accept as done to *Him*. For I trust we are still belov'd for our Father's Sake; and for the Sake of a precious Number thro' the Land, who are yet *faithful with the Saints*.

THEY are also *your own People*; and, as you have been pleas'd to say of them, *Bone of your Bone, and Flesh of your Flesh*. And we may suppose the Intenseness of your *native Affection* is encreas'd, by the *publick Relation* in which you have so long stood to them.

AND suffer me to say, *Sir*, the distress'd State of this People at this Day, loudly calls for your paternal Compassions, your wise Councils, and best Endeavours for their Relief. Their Case resembles that of the *Jews* in the Time of *Nehemiah*; and like them they look to their *Gouverneur* for Help and Redress.

Fulfilment of that Word of our Saviour, *If any*
 John 12. *Man serve me, let him follow me: And where I am*
 26. *there shall also my Servant be. If any Man serve*
me, him will my Father honour.

2. LET this word of God be in the next Place address'd, with all Decency to the honourable his MAJESTY'S COUNCIL, and the honourable *House* of REPRESENTATIVES, this Day in General Court Assembled. The Demand of the King of Heaven from you *all* is, That you serve Him, and shew your selves faithful to his Interests, in your several publick Capacities, and this upon Pain of his highest Displeasure.

AND here I would first of all apply my self to you, as having the Power of *Election* to be exercised this Day. Herein you are entrusted with a singular Opportunity to serve Christ and this People: And He that *standeth in the Congregation of the mighty* critically inspects you in, and will call you to a strict Account for the Management of this Day's Work.

IT is an Affair of no small Importance you are to transact this Afternoon; to *elect his Majesty's Council for the Province*: These, in the Frame of our Government, do, as it were, stand between the King and the People, both of which do in a Sort meet in *them*; and while they are to guard the *Prerogative* of the one, they are to preserve the *Privilege* of the other: They are one Branch of the *Legislature*, and bear a distinct Part in the framing and enacting of our Laws: Without their Consent no Civil Officers can be appointed in the *Province*; and

and the *College*, in which the Churches thro' the Land are so deeply concern'd, falls in Part under their Inspection and Government. These Things render it a Matter of no small Moment, who that Board consists of from Time to Time. And tho' they are chosen but for a Year, great may be the Benefit or Detriment of such a Choice; for in one Year are often laid *the Foundations of many Generations*.

Let the Importance then of this Days Work lie with a due Weight upon the Mind of every one concern'd; and let none act in so weighty an Affair with a *trifling*, a *partial*, or a *party Spirit*. Let me tell you, *Gentlemen*, your Votes are not your own; you vote for *Christ* and for his People; and therefore must look to the Qualifications of those you vote for. You know the Rules of Election into Posts of Government prescrib'd in the Oracles of GOD: Consider them, and act under the Direction and Awe of them. The Advice of *Moses* and *Jethro* are indeed the Charge of GOD to Electors from Time to Time. Deut. 1. 13. *Take ye wise men, and understanding, and known among your Tribes.* Exod 18 21. *Thou shalt provide out of all the people, able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness, and place such to be Rulers.* Men of a general Character for Capacity, Integrity, publick Spiritedness, and Piety. Men of a Genius for Government, and who understand the civil and religious Interests of their People: *True Men*, that will act upon Principle, and not be daunted by Frowns nor Clamours: Men not govern'd by narrow and selfish Views, but that can generously sacrifice their private Interest to that

of the publick, when they stand in Competition: And Men that appear to act in the Fear of GOD in their private Life; for only such will act for his Glory in a publick Station; and they are the most likely to be favour'd with the divine Presence and Blessing.

IT were sad indeed, if among our Tribes, in the several Parts of our Land, there could not be found Persons of these Characters, eno' to fill every Seat at the Council Table. Your Business is to look for them ---- And may *He who sits in the Heavens*, and presides over the Affairs of the Children of Men, lead you in your Choice, to his own Glory, and the Advantage of this People; and therein give us a happy Token that He is still in the Midst of us!

WHEN the Election of this Day is over, the three Parts of the *Legislature* will come to act in their *legislative Capacity*: and they that give Law to others, must consider themselves *as under the Law to Christ*.

VAST is the Trust committed to you in this Capacity: The Vertue and Religion, the Liberties and Priviledges, the Trade and Riches, the Protection and Defence of this People, are very much in your Hands. And you must be entreated by the Honour you bear to Christ, and your Allegiance to *Him*, to serve this his People in these and all their Interests, to the utmost Reach of your Power.

AND

AND I suppose never did the State of this People call for more consummate Wisdom, tender Compassion, inviolable Fidelity, and unceasing Sollicitude for their Welfare, from their Fathers in the Government, than at this Day.

AN *empty Treasury, a defenceless Country, and embarrass'd Trade*, are indeed melancholy Things. How to supply the one, fortify the other, and relieve the third, will to be sure be the Matters of your Attention. But here you expect no Advice from the *Pulpit*. And indeed the Wisdom of the wise seems to fail them, and humane Contrivance to be at a *non plus*. But when we know not what to do, *our Eyes shou'd be unto the Lord*: For he has said, *Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom : I lead* Prov. 8. 14. *in the Way of Righteousness, in the Midst of the Paths* 20. *of Judgment*. And innumerable Ways are open to his View, when all are shut up to ours.

AMIDST these Cares which will now press upon you, you will not forget that you are the *Guardians of Religion*; but will do what you can to maintain the the Kingdom of Christ among us, in its Light, Purity and Glory. It is for the Sake of the Church that the World stands, and Christ is *Head over all Things for the Church*: Therefore they that rule by *Him* shou'd employ their Care and Power for *that* in the first and chief Place. So the Princes of *Israel*, in their March tho' the Wilderness, *pitched their Standard, at the Com-* Num. 2. 2. *mandment of God, about the Tabernacle of the Con-* *gregation* to secure it. You will therefore think it your Duty to strengthen the Hands, and encourage the Hearts of the faithful Ministers of Christ; and do your Part that there may be a
Succession

Succeſſion of ſuch in Times to come, by ſupporting the Means of Education, and cheriſhing the *College* from whence the Churches look for their Supply: Your generous Smiles on that Society we thankfully acknowledge as an Inſtance of your juſt Care that Religion and Learning may ſtill flouriſh amongſt us.

WHETHER any new *Laws* need to be bro't forward, for the ſuppreſſing our growing Immoralities, You, *Gentlemen*, who live in the ſeveral Parts of our Land, can beſt judge. But what will the beſt *Laws* ſignify without a vigorous Execution? Let me therefore in the next Place apply my ſelf,

3. To the *Executive Part* of the Government over us; the Honourable *Judges of our Courts*, and *Juſtices* in our ſeveral Countys. Permit me to ſay to your *Honours*, You are Chriſt's *Officers* and *Ministers*, and muſt act for Him in that Part of Government which his Providence has aſſign'd you.

LET your *Courts* therefore be always open'd in His Name: I mean that you pay Him your publick Homage, and adore him as the ſupream King, Law-giver and Judge, by ſolemn and open Prayer. This is done, I ſuppoſe, in our ſeveral Courts of Juſtice thro' the Land: And I think that all the *Officers* of the Court, and thoſe who have Buſineſs at it, ſhould be order'd reverently to attend ----- Realife his *Preſence*, Preſidency and Inſpection, and act under the Awe and Influence thereof: For

Psalm 82.1. He ſtandeth in the Congregation of the mighty, and judgeth among the Gods. --- In diſpencing publick Juſtice

Justice endeavour a Conformity to *His* Administration. For *the Sceptre of his Kingdom is a right Sceptre : He loveth Righteousness, and hateth Iniquity.* Psal. 45.
6, 7.

IN *civil Causes* let there be shewn the most steady Impartiality, and unrepachable Integrity. The Charge which King *Jehoshaphat* gave to his Judges, is the Charge of the King of Heaven to you, *Take heed what you do ; for ye judge not for Man, but for the Lord, who is with you in the Judgment : Wherefore let the Fear of the Lord be upon you: For there is no Iniquity with the Lord our God, nor Respect of Persons, nor taking of Gifts. ----* And in *criminal Cases*, let the Edge of the Law be sharpened in Proportion to the Nature of the Crime, and the Boldness of the Transgressor. While you sit on the Seat of Judgment, Sinners should behold your Face as *the Face of God*, which is set against them that do wickedly: And the Day of *Assize* should be a little Image of that Day, when the Lord will come to judge the World in Righteousness, and the People with his Truth; and shall render Indignation and Wrath, Tribulation and Anguish, to every Soul of Man that doth Evil. The Judge on the Bench should be worthy of that Commendation, which Christ gave to the Angel of the Church of *Ephesus*, *I know thy Works : How thou canst not bear them which are evil.* 2 Chron.
19. 6, 7.
Rev. 22.

BUT as the wise Constitution of our Government has put the Execution of our Laws very much into the Hands of a single Magistrate, so I would apply my self here to those who are in the Commission of the Peace thro' the Province.

You

YOU, *Gentlemen*, may do much in your *single Capacity*, to restrain the Sons of Wickedness; to stop the Mouths of profane Swearers and Curfers; to prevent Sabbath-breaking, Drunkenness and Idleness; and to break up such Houses as are Places of Debauchery, and Cages of unclean Birds. *Courts* can take Notice only of what is presented to them; but *you* can *search out* Iniquity, and follow it into its hiding Places. And let me *beseech* you for Christ's Sake, and *charge* you in his Name, to arise and exert yourselves. For, is there not Occasion? Is not the present Generation loose and dissolute in Manners? Does not Iniquity come in upon us like a Flood? And Vice almost ride triumphant? Will you then let the Sword of Justice *rust* in your Hands? Shall our good Laws prove a *dead Letter*, and lie by as waste Paper, only for want of a vigorous Execution? And shall the Enemies of GOD and Godliness, find Security under *Christian Magistrates*? ----- Certainly they who receive such an important Trust as the Execution of our Laws, and accept of the Honour attending the Title of Magistrates, should be faithful in the Discharge of their Office.

THANKS be to GOD! We are bless'd under the present Administration with a Number of such Magistrates. And the Zeal of *some* of them in this *Town* is truly laudable, and has had a visible good Effect ----- Go on, *Gentlemen*, with new Resolution and Vigour, in your pious Endeavours for the legal Suppression of scandalous Wickedness. Despise the little Flirts of *some*, and fear not the big Looks of *any*. Still *say to the foolish, Deal not foolishly; and to the wicked, Lift not up the Horn.*

YOU

YOU have the *Law* on your Side. Our *Governour* has lately call'd upon and charg'd you in a seasonable Proclamation. *Good People* do bless you. And GOD will accept and reward you! So *Jehoshaphat* encourag'd the Ministers of Justice under his Government, to a resolute Discharge of their Duty ; *Deal courageously, and the Lord will be with the good.* 2 Chron. 19. 11.

II. IT is now Time for me to hasten to apply my self to the *Body of the People*, those who are only in a *private Capacity*, and fall into the Division of the *Ruled*.

AND here I can be spar'd only a few short Hints.

LET me exhort you then to *Thankfulness*, that you live under *Christian Magistrates*, who are a *Terror not to good Works, but to the Evil*; and who countenance Religion by their Example as well as Authority. To use the Words of an eminent Person of *our Order* on this Occasion many Years ago, † “ Is it not a valuable Blessing, that
 “ we don't see such Madness and Folly set in
 “ great Dignity over us, which would make Vice
 “ reputable? That we don't see the *first Chair*
 “ of Government, the *Council Table*, and *Seats of*
 “ Judgment, fill'd with Men of infamous Lusts,
 “ whose Lives are the last Defiance to all that is
 “ sacred and divine, to Religion, common Honesty

† The late Rev. Mr. PEMBERTON, in his Election Sermon.

“ and Sobriety ; openly wallowing in the grossest
 “ Pollutions of Sensuality ? Ought not this to be
 “ esteem’d a Favour of Heaven, which challenges
 “ a Tribute of Gratitude and Praise. ” For the
 Lives of such Rulers would give a *Sanction* to
 Wickedness ; and what a Torrent of it would
 then break in upon us, and bear away all Oppo-
 sition before it ? It is an ancient Observation, and
 will always be found true, *The Wicked walk on*
Psal. 12.8. every Side, when the vilest Men are exalted.

LET me also exhort you to *reverence Govern-*
ment as an Institution of GOD, and to treat Ma-
 gistrates as Christ’s Ministers : And since the Ho-
 nour of Christ, as well as the publick Weal, is so
 much concern’d in their Administration, make
 Conscience of *praying for them*, constantly and
 fervently. ----- And also to be *assisting* in your
 several Stations to the Magistrate, that so the
 great and good Ends of civil Government may be
 attained.

FINALLY,

I am to demand *Subjection* and Obedience to
 the LORD JESUS CHRIST, from *every one of you*
all. If *Kings and Judges of the Earth*, are to kiss
 the Son of GOD, and serve the Lord with Fear,
Common People cannot be excus’d. Christ is your
 rightful Sovereign : But does he reign in your
 Hearts, and in your Lives ? Are none of you in
 a foreign Service ? He that hath your Obedience,
 the same is your Lord and King. *To whom ye yield*
Rom. 6.16 your selves Servants to obey, his Servants ye are to
whom ye obey. To whom then do you yield the
 most chearful and constant Obedience ? To the
 Commands

Commands of Christ, or the Solicitations of Satan, and your own Lusts? ---- *The works of the Flesh are manifest*, which are these, Drunkenness, Uncleaness, Swearing, Sabbath-breaking, Wrath, Hatred, Variance, &c. How many by living in these Sins, and also in the Neglect of those holy spiritual Duties of Religion which Christ requires, trample upon his Authority, and declare *They will not have this Man to reign over them?* This is the Language of Sinners, *Let us break those Bands asunder* which bind us to Christ, and *cast away his Cords from us!* ---- But will You, O Sinner! persist in this Rebellion? If you do so but a little longer, it will issue in your utter Ruin, and his Power and Righteousness will raise Satisfaction and Glory to themselves from your deserved eternal Destruction. Luke 19. 27. *But those mine Enemies, that would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.*

HEAR then the Counsel of Heaven, and obey the Command of the Gospel this Day; every one of you without Exception. *Kiss the Son*, with a Kiss of Loyalty and *Subjection*; and henceforth serve in Holiness and Righteousness before him all the Days of your Life: For he is *the Author of eternal Salvation, only to them that obey him.* --- Heb. 5. 9. *Kiss the Son* with a Kiss of *Affection*: For *if any Man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be* 1 Cor. 16. 22. *Anathema, Maran-atha!* --- *Kiss him* in Token of *Trust* and *Dependance*: For *there is Salvation in no other, nor any other Name given under Heaven, whereby Men can be saved.* --- Act. 4. 12. This is the only Way of Safety and Blessedness: For his faithful Subjects shall be prefer'd and rewarded, when he wil

will take Vengeance on his Adversaries, and render Wrath to his Enemies.

BUT I must break off ----- : And I know not how to conclude better than with repeating the solemn Words of my Text, as address'd to the *whole Assembly*. *Be wise now therefore, O ye Rulers of all Degrees : Be instructed all ye People, high and low, rich and poor together. Serve the LORD with Fear, and rejoyce with Trembling : Kiss the SON, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the Way, when his Wrath is kindled but a little : Blessed are all they that put their Trust in Him !*



The END.



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