

1697

Truth's Innocency and Simplicity Shining through the Conversion ... (With the Long and Patient Sufferings) of that Ancient and Faithful Minister and Servant of Jesus Christ

Thomas Taylor

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A N E P I S T L E

T O A L L

Friendly and Impartial

R E A D E R S.

THE Ensuing *Collection* is Recommended to your Serious Perusal, Charitable and Tender Considerations, wherein expect not to find either Empty Flourishes, Curiosity of Speech, or Acquired Eloquence, but Plainness and Simplicity, wherein the Substantial *Truth* is sincerely aimed and pointed at. The *Author*; by the Grace of God through Jesus Christ, being Converted from a Literal, Worldly, and Mercenary *Priest*, (tho' one of the Better Sort) to be a Spiritual *Minister* of Christ, and Free Preacher of Righteousness in Life and Doctrine, knowing that Gospel-Ministers, and good Preachers, must be good *Livers*; none being meet to Convert others to God or Christ, but who are first truly Converted themselves by his Power.

This Innocent and Upright-hearted Man, *Thomas Taylor*, seeing the great Corruptions, *Pride*, and *Covetousness*, and other Enormities, among too many of the *Worldly Teachers*, *Priests*, and *Hearers*, was the more Fervent in his Testimony against them, who pleased themselves and others with good Words, whilst they lived *Bad Lives*.

An E P I S T L E,

This our Deceased Brother and *Servant of Jesus Christ*, when Sufferings or Storms approached, or *Wolves* appeared to Devour, did not Flee with *Hirelings*, nor Flatter with *Temporizers*, nor Admire Mens Persons for Advantage, but as one having a fixed Confidence in the *Lord*, and true Zeal for his Glory, was Valiant for his *Truth* on Earth, and used much Plainness in his *Ministry*, Testimony, and Warnings, both to High and Low, Professors and Profane; not sparing Disguis'd *Hypocrites*, or Deceitful Workers, no more than Open and Gross Offenders, but as a Partaker of the same Spirit and Life, the Primitive Ministers of Christ were in, according to his Measure, was Exercised in the like Sincerity, Uprightness, and Self-denial, intimated in 2 Cor. 2. 17. *For we are not as many, which deal deceitfully with (or make Merchandize of) the Word of God; and 1 Thes. 2. 3. For our Exhortation was not of Deceit, nor of Uncleanness, nor in Guile.* (Ver. 4.) *But as we were allowed of God to be put in Trust with the Gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing Men, but God, which trieth our Hearts.* (Ver. 5.) *For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a Cloak of Covetousness, God is witness.* (Ver. 6.) *Nor of Men sought we Glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, &c.*

In like manner this Faithful Servant of Christ (*whom we now speak of*) did not sooth up People at their Sins, nor sow Pillows under their Arm-holes, like those unpleasing Prophets, but in Tender Love and Pity he sought the Souls, Faithfully Warned them, and Persuaded them to Repentance, as one knowing the Terrible Nature of his Righteous Judgments against the Wicked; being also sensible, *when they were blind,* that he was sent by Prophecie? And *when he faithless,* that he was sent by thy Voice like a Thunder, to denounce Judgements and Plagues upon the Silent? He was sent by thy Voice and Providence to perform Christian Labours.

fore

Wherefore, Friendly *Readers*, let not the Simplicity of his *Stile*, nor his Plainness, Sharpness, or Zeal against *Hypocrisie* or *Deceit*, offend you in the following *Collection*, or any Passages therein, we hope there is nothing in them justly offensive, or that may not bear a Charitable and Just Construction with the Impartial and Unprejudic'd, if any thing should seem Dubious: Though where *Pnejudice* or *Envy* is against Persons or Things, (how Just soever) it will carp and quarrel at the Clearest *Truths*; as hath appeared both from *Envious Apostates*, and other Enemies to Christ and his Followers: The Holy *Scriptures* themselves not escaping the Causeless *Cavils* of Irreligious and Atheistical Persons.

This Faithful and Zealous *Servant* of *Christ* was Divinely endued with a Gospel-Spirit and *Ministry*, and was of a True, Christian, Gentle and Humble Disposition; and his Judgment was mix'd with *Mercy* and *Compassion* to poor Souls; and his Company and Society was Sweet and Acceptable to all the Faithful in Christ, who had a True and Spiritual Knowledge of him, and Acquaintance with him. He sincerely affected Christian Humility, Poverty of Spirit, and Simplicity in Christ, beyond all Artificial *Painting*, and Humane *Acquirements*. And seeing the Vanity of all Airy *Notions*, Scholastick *Craft*, and Self-righteousness, he laid it all aside, and was Refin'd from all that Dross, esteeming the pure Gold, the Heavenly Treasure, the Excellency of the *Knowledge* of *Christ Jesus* our Lord above all; therein asserting his Sincerity and Innocency, when a *Prisoner* in about 1665, in Praise to the Lord God, who supported him in his Sufferings, Patience and Innocent *Condemnation*. Concerning which, please to observe his own *Testimony* inserted here as followeth, *viz.*

“ This is my Confidence in the Lord, &c.
 “ my Clearness before all People, children of Light from a Blot;
 “ and persecuted, and evil spoken
 “ yet it hath altogether been witness to such as are gone from it
 “ For I can truly say, That I ne
 “ living upon the Earth, though

AN EPISTLE,

" wife, he was never so contrary to me, or against me: Yea,
 " the *Terrors of God* and his *Truth*, did preserve my Heart from
 " seeking my own Revenges, but taught me still to commit my
 " Cause to God; and he, according to his Word, did still bring
 " forth my Righteousness as the Light, and my Judgment and Justice
 " Dealing as the Noon-day, Psal. 37. 5, 6. to his Holy Name's
 " Praise, and my Soul's great Rejoycing; and did still let me see,
 " that the patient abiding of the Meek, is never forgotten of
 " God.

" And so though I have been kept here (a Prisoner) above
 " four Years for my pure Conscience sake to God, yet to the King
 " and the People, under whom I Suffer, have I done no Harm,
 " nor can think or intend them Evil; but have endeavoured in
 " all things in the Power of God, as a true Christian, to live peace-
 " ably with all Men, as those that have known me from the be-
 " ginning can witness. For I never drew Sword, nor Plotted
 " against any, nor could ever perswade any others so to do; but
 " have still lamented the Misery of Mankind to see them, instead
 " of Loving and Helping one another, contrariwise Hating,
 " Biting, Devouring and Destroying one another.

" So I rest in the Blessed Peace of my God, a Sufferer for his
 " Blessed Truth, Blessed for ever be his Name, who hath called
 " me, and counted me worthy thereof. But it will not be well
 " with such as hate the righteous Man as saith Scripture: But my
 " Heart can say, Father, forgive them, for they know not what
 " they do.

" And concerning Kings, and all that are in Authority, my
 " Heart hath said according to the Holy Doctrine of the Apostle,
 " Lord Grant them that we thy People, whom thou hast re-
 " in the latter times, and a quiet and peaceable Life, in all
 " them, to thy Praise. And for this

" appears truly agreeable to
 " like case, 2 Cor. 12. For our
 " Conscience, that in Simplicity

and Godly Sincerity, not with fleshy Wisdom, but by the Grace of God we have had our Conversation in the World, and more abundantly to you-wards.

These things are recommended to all Serious and Well-inclined Readers, who desire to seek the Lord, his Kingdom, and the Righteousness thereof, to weigh and consider, knowing that 'tis all our Concerns, tenderly to mark and behold the perfect and upright Man, for the End of that Man is Peace; as was the End of this Innocent and Upright-hearted Man, whose Memorial is Blessed.

Divers Friends have been for some time concerned, that the following Collections were not publish'd some Years ago; but many Occasions and Exercises intervening, have thus long prevented the Persons concerned in Collecting, Inspecting and Placing his Writings in Order, as they could find them, and as might most tend to future Service, Admonition or Warning, that they might be preserved for Ages to come.

We have great Cause to Praise the Worthy Name of the Lord our God, that he hath raised and sent so many Faithful Witnesses in our Days, who have not been as Clouds without Rain, but Divinely Replenished and Qualified with Life, Wisdom and Sanctity,

III. Thomas Taylor's *Work* which the Lord hath called them unto. And there-

IV. A short Testimony of Enemies, Apostates and Back-sliders, who

Thomas Taylor. in any such, who are the Lord's

V. Robert Barrow's Testimony concerning Servants, either while Living,

VI. William Fallowfield's Testimony concerning

VII. A short Testimony concerning that Faithful Serje, who profess his

Thomas Taylor, whose Memory is Blessed. Hearts unto him

ing before him

the Mercy

To Friends in Warwick-shire and Stafford-shire, &c.

To Friends

A Loving and Seasonable Advice to the Children of Light from a Brother,

Thomas Taylor

To Friends that abide in the Truth: as also to such as are gone from it

To Friends

To Israel's Babes

Of Prayers

Concerning

WE being satisfied, and having Unity with the foregoing Preface, with Relation to, and in behalf of, our deceased Friend and Brother Thomas Taylor, his Service, Labours and Travels for the Gospel of Christ, do hereunto Subscribe our Names,

Theodore Eccleston
William Ellis
Samuel Waldenfield
George Bowles
Charles Marshall

Thomas Lower
John Bowater
Joshua Middleton
Richard Needham
John Field.

I Am Concerned to give this further Account: The said Thomas Taylor (after other Imprisonments) being Twice Imprisoned at Stafford for his Tender Conscience to Christ.

In the first Imprisonment there, he was near Eleven Years a Prisoner, (as I Remember) and the Second Imprisonment there was for a short time, being Threatned, Reviled and abused by a Jesuite-Rogue by the Deputy's Steward. But it will not be well Instrumental in God's Hand for him, as faith Scripture: But my 1672. by Solicitation for joining them, for they know not what

R Charles the Second for himself about 16 Kings, and all that are in Authority, my but a Peaceably according to the Holy Doctrine of the Apostle, Protestant, & that we Rule well, that it may be well with them from the latter that we thy People, whom thou hast received a quiet and peaceable Life, in all them, to thy Praise. And for this

appears truly agreeable to 12. For our Simplicity

Oba 163

A N

I N D E X

OF THE CHIEF HEADS

Contained in this

B O O K.

- I. **A** Testimony concerning our Dear Friend and Brother Thomas Taylor, who was Convinced of the Lord's Everlasting Truth, and Received it in the Year 1652.
- II. Christopher Taylor's Testimony concerning Thomas Taylor.
- III. Thomas Taylor's Testimony concerning his Father.
- IV. A short Testimony of Hannah Taylor, concerning her Dear Father Thomas Taylor.
- V. Robert Barrow's Testimony concerning Thomas Taylor.
- VI. William Fallowfield's Testimony concerning Thomas Taylor.
- VII. A short Testimony concerning that Faithful Servant of the Lord Thomas Taylor, whose Memory is Blessed.

T homas Taylor's Epistles. To Friends	Page 2
To Friends at Strickland-head	4
To Friends in Warwick-shire and Stafford-shire, &c.	7
To Friends	10
A Loving and Seasonable Advice to the Children of Light from a Brother	12
Thomas Taylor	15
To Friends that abide in the Truth: as also to such as are gone from it	17
To Friends	20
To Israel's Babes	22
Of Prayers	23

An INDEX.

Concerning Zion	Page 23
The Life more than Cloaths and Meat	ibid.
To the Unsatiabie Devourers of Strong Drink	24
To my Dear Friends every where	26
To Friends	28
To Friends in London	30
To Friends of Sadbury side	32
To Friends, Richard Boothman and Robert Clough	34
The Day of the Lord is Dawnd	35
Some Prison-Meditations in the 7th Month, 1657. being a Free-gift Sermon, mainly touching the Religious Robbers, or Spiritual Murtherers, the Sermon and Prayer-sellers of the former, latter and present Times; even to the whole Company of Mystery Babylon's Merchants and Members a Warn- ing	37
To the Judges, Justices, Juries, Teachers and People of the Nation, who Profess themselves to be Christians, and the Scriptures to be their Rule, and yet account themselves disturbed if any speak unto them, and cry against them in their Assemblies or Streets in the Name and Word of the Lord (with- out any Authority from Man) a few Queries	50
To those of Manchester that are Zealous for their Sabbath	53
To a Wandering Apostate	55
To George Ward, and those that had Fellowship with him	56
To a Plundering Priest	58
To those that Rejoice in Bells and Bonfires	59
To them that plays the Fool upon the Stage.	60
Against Mass-Times	61
To the Bear-ward	62
To the Dancers on the Ropes	63
A Warning to all People	ibid.
For the People of England to Weep	64
To the Comers and Goers by the Prison-Window, of both Sorts	65
To King Charles the Second, concerning Persecution, &c.	67
To Informers	69
Some Serious Considerations concerning the Priests of the High Places, called Churches, their Sprinkling Infants, Marrying People, and Burying their Dead, &c.	70
To the Jury-men of Appleby	73
To Judges and Rulers	74
A Testimony of Truth	75
To all that are Worshipping in the Outward Court, without God in the World, in diverse Forms	78

An INDEX.

To William Thornton, called Justice, at Hipswell, in York-shire, Divulged for the Information of other Moderate Enquirers after the Lord	Page 81
To the Presbyterians so called	88
To the Presbyterians	90
To the Blind Teachers	91
For the Great People of the Earth, who love the Pleasures of Sin, these	ib.
Concerning Bread and Wine	93
The Indignation of the Lord upon all Nations	94
To Loose and Wicked Professors	108
To Protestants	109
To the Sons of Vanity	110
Who they are that only Rejoice in the Birth of Christ	111
A Testimony against Persecution, to King Charles the Second, and his Magi- strates	112
Wo to the World, because of Iniquity	114
An Apology from the Harmless against the Unjust. And to the King and his Magistrates against Plotting	ibid.
Against May-poles	116
To a Dancing-Master	117
To the Fruitless Vineyard of England	118
To the People of England	119
Goa's Controversie with England declared: Or, a Warning-word, by way of Reproof, to the Inhabitants thereof, even to such as forget God, and are adding one Sin unto another	121
A Faithful Warning to Outside Professors, and Loose Pretenders to Christiani- ty of all Sorts	123
Something, as it came to mind, of what passed at the Assizes in Stafford, be- twixt the Judge and the People of God, called by the World Quakers: But the Reproach of Christ is to us great Riches, and the Scorners God will judge	131
To the Jury-men of Stafford, that brought him in Guilty	138
To King Charles the Second	139
Against Lotteries	142
To Stafford	1
To the Mayor of Stafford	144
For them that Rule in Stafford	ibid.
To the Kings and Rulers	145
Concerning his being taken Prisoner of Seven Years Continuance	147
To the Mayor and Priest of Stafford	148
Concerning the Fallen Christians	149
To the Vain People of the World	150

An INDEX.

	Page
<i>An Exhortation to all People</i>	15
<i>To the Teachers and Magistrates of Tamworth</i>	15
<i>To sinful People</i>	15
<i>To the Children of Men</i>	15
<i>To the Excers</i>	ibid.
<i>Concerning Sprinkling</i>	15
<i>Concerning Burying, and Churching of Women, &c.</i>	15
<i>A Testimony against Bull and Bear-baiting</i>	15
<i>A Testimony against Sporting and Playing</i>	16
<i>A Loving Exhortation, to all Kings, Princes, Potentates, Bishops, and People in the whole Christendom. Wherein is a distinction betwixt the True and False Teachers.</i>	16
<i>A few Necessary Questions and Conclusions for the Present Parish-Teachers of England, &c. Deeply to Ponder and Answer in God's Fear, for the Good of their own and the People's Souls that are under them; for the Lord is arisen to call all things into Judgment.</i>	17
<i>A Strong and Terrible Alarm Sounded out of the Holy Mountain, against the Wicked Inhabitants of the Earth</i>	17
<i>Warning for Sin</i>	18
<i>A Warning to the Nations, to lay aside all Prejudice and Enmity, the Ground of Strife and Wars; and to come and Embrace the Light of Christ Jesus, that they may see themselves, and come to be Saved and Healed, and United in the Love of God.</i>	18
<i>To People whose Hearts are turned from the Lord</i>	18
<i>To the Magistrates</i>	18
<i>To the Generation of Fleshly Fallen Christians, not worthy the Name of Christians</i>	19
<i>To the King</i>	19
<i>An Exhortation to remember the Judgments of God</i>	19
<i>To the Unclean Communicants</i>	19
<i>God's Virtue and Goodness Extolled</i>	19
<i>Richard Baxter's Book, Entituled, The Cure of Church-Divisions, Answer'd and Confuted</i>	20
<i>Some more of these strange Sayings of this Richard Baxter in his Book</i>	23
<i>Some Gentle Remarks on a Book, Entituled, A Discourse concerning Idolatry Practis'd in the Church of Rome</i>	24
<i>The Day is Dawned that makes all Wickedness manifest</i>	25
<i>To some of T. Hicks's Friends</i>	25
<i>Something concerning that called the Common-Prayer</i>	25
<i>A Testimony for the Lord, the good Shepherd, and true Admister of the Sanctuary, and true Tabernacle which God hath pitched, and not Man, against all the False Shepherds, and Hireling Ministers of this World.</i>	25

An INDEX.

under what Name, or Notion, or Form soever, who have run, and God never sent them, and therefore cannot profit the People at all	Page 273
The true East from the False	283
Something in Answer to some Passages in that naughty Book, called, A Looking-glass for Ladies	284
Thomas Taylor, who was ten Years and an half in Prison at Stafford, writes a Letter to a particular Adversary	293
To the People at and about Stafford, a Testimony for God and his Truth, and against Deceit and Deceivers, especially the Hireling Priests, as a Warning, Information and Instruction in Righteousness, to them, (and all People elsewhere concerned) by the Spirit of the Lord in his Suffering Servant Thomas Taylor	294
Something in Answer to some Passages in that Wicked Antichristian Book written Catechism wise, by some Popish Stickler for his Master the Pope, the Romish Antichrist and his Followers. Printed at Douay, and subscribed H. T.	299
A Warning to the Papists at Stafford	314
Something in Answer to a Paper from a Nameless Author, directed to be left at Joseph Holt's in Okeham.	317
A Copy of Verses writ upon occasion of a Visitation, so called	326
Certain Queries Propounded to the People called Anabaptists, especially to such as believe, and hold forth, that Water-Baptism is an Ordinance and Command of Christ Jesus, the Door of Entrance into the true Church, and so of such Absolute Necessity, as that there can be no True Gospel Church-Fellowship without it.	333
Christ Exalted above Moses, and the Spirit above the Letter	337

A TESTIMONY

Concerning our Dear Friend and Brother

Thomas Taylor,

Who was Convinced of the Lord's Everlasting Truth,
and Received it in the Year 1652.

HE had been an Eminent *Parish Priest*, and of Note among the Professors and other Priests, and also a *Lecturer* in several Countries, Preaching *Sermons* on the Week-Days. And he coming to *Swarthmor* in *Lancashire*, with some other Priests, I ask'd him and them, before *Judge Fell*, 'Whether he, or any of them could say, 'that they ever heard a *Voice of God or Christ* from Heaven, that bid 'them go to Speak to any People, as *God and Christ* did to the *Prophets* 'and *Apostles*? And *Thomas* said before them all, that he never heard any such Voice or Command. And I ask'd him what he Preach'd to the People then, and he made Answer, and said, *His Experiences*, and I told him his *Experiences* might not reach to every *Condition*; but he that had the *Word of the Lord*, might Preach it, whom *God* sent, and that would Reach all *Conditions*, who knows all *Conditions*: And so the Lord's Word and Power struck him that he was Silent. But the rest of the Priests were High, and Opposed, and came to nothing: And *Judge Fell* wondered, and was astonished at what he heard *Thomas* say, that he had never heard the *Voice of God nor Christ* to Command him to Preach to any People; and the said *Thomas Taylor*, being look'd upon a High Priest, and above the Common Priests, and a Sober Man, and Beloved among the outward Professors, and so I went along with him that Day, to a place called *Newton*, in *Lancashire*, where he used to Preach sometimes; and he was very much down, and sad, and groaned that Night. And the next Day we went to a Meeting which we had in the *Steeple-house-yard*,

B

house-yard, but he would have gone into the Steeple-house, but the Priest would not let us; and I told him, it was no matter. And there came another Priest from Under-Barrow, and several others, and Thomas sitting still, at last a tender Spring of Life Sprang up in him, and he Spoke very well in it to the People, both of his own Condition, and the People's, and where they had been; and now how they must turn to the Lord Jesus Christ,

And the Under-Barrow-Priest, and some other Professors, were Offended, and Opposed him; but the Lord's Power came over them all: For he was look'd upon, in the time of his Priesthood, above them.

And Thomas Taylor grew in the Grace and Truth of Christ, and came to know the Word of the Lord, and Preach Christ-Freely, as then he had Received Freely, and forsook his Parish-steeple-house, and his old Parish-wages, and the rest of the Priests, that Preach'd for Hire; and he Travelled up and down in many parts of England, Preaching the Word of the Lord, and his Gospel freely, as he was Commanded, who had Received it freely. And likewise his Brother Christopher Taylor, who had been a Publick Preacher to a People, was also Convinced, and Preach'd Christ freely. And many Disputes Thomas had with the Priests and Professors, and continued still in his Confession to God, and his Truth and People, and what their Conditions were, and had been formerly. And so from that time he continued in the Truth, and the Grace of God, and grew mightily in it, and boldly Preached it, and saw where the Priests and Professors were, and by whom they were made and sent, not of God; so that the Priests and Professors grew in a Rage against him, and Persecuted him.

And he, having been a Lecturer at Richmond in Yorkshire, was made to go there, and Turn his Back to the Priest, and put his Hands to both his Ears, and stop them, as a Sign, how God had stoppt his Ears unto their Sacrifice, and Service, and Offering. And then after he was cast into a Prison at Appleby in Westmoreland for the Truth's Sake, under a cruel Goaler, and a very bad Prison, being a sad, smoky place, by the Smoke that came out of other Rooms, enough to Choke him: But he continued Faithful in the Life and Power of the Lord, and the Lord delivered him thence. And afterwards he Travelled up and down, Preaching to Priests and Professors, and warning all, both Small and Great, to Repentance and Amendment of Life, turning many to the Lord. He was after a while cast into Prison at York for Truth, and after some time the Lord there delivered him. And so when he was at Liberty, he still continued Labouring in the Work and Service of the Lord, Preaching the Everlasting Gospel, and Turning People from Darkness to Light, and from the Power of Satan, to the Power of God. And also his Life and

Conver-

concerning Thomas Taylor.

Conversation Preached, being a Man of a Sober Life, and Sound Judgment, and a good Understanding in the Truth. And after he had Travelled much up and down in several parts of this Nation, he coming into Staffordshire, was there Imprisoned and Premured for refusing to Swear in Obedience to the Command of Christ, who says, *Swear not at all*; and there he was kept Prisoner Ten Years and a half in the Town of Stafford, under cruel Goalers; and a sore, tedious Imprisonment he had, and great Sufferings by those Magistrates, as his Letters will Testifie. and a wearisom Imprisonment he had through the wicked Prisoners, which burdened and grieved his Righteous Soul. And when he was at Liberty, and Travelled up and down in the Power of the Lord, in the Lord's Service, being a Man of a Tender Spirit and Conscience, sometimes he met with Bull-baiting, Bear-baiting, Plays and Shows, and Cock-fightings; and Mountebanks, and Ringers of Bells, &c. which burdened and grieved his Righteous Soul, that People should spend their pretious Time in Sports and Vanities, and such as professed Christianity, which were more like the Heathen-Romans than Christians who was made to Admonish such, and Reprove them (as his Letters Testifie) and not to spend their time so Vainly. The Lord was with him, and did assist him, who was an Elder indeed, and Partaker of the Glory, that is to be Revealed; who sought to Establish such as he Convinced (and were Convinced,) in the Truth and Gospel the Power of God; who was Beloved of God, and all his Faithful People.

And many bad Prisons or Goals he was cast into for the Lord Jesus Christ, and his Truth's Sake. And he had a Dispute with Doctor Owen at Oxford, and the very Scholars could say, That Thomas was too hard for him; for the Lord, with his Eternal Arm and Power, did Support him. And he was a Faithful, True, Upright Man in the Lord's Truth, to the last, and turned many to the Lord Jesus Christ, that they became Hearers and Followers of him who Speaks from Heaven: And he loved the Government of Christ, and his Spiritual, Heavenly Order among his People. And when he had fulfilled his Ministry, and finished his Course (who was a harmless and blameless Man in his Conversation) he laid down his Head in Peace, and Died in the Lord, and is Blessed, and his Works follow him.

Much might be writ of this Honest and Faithful Servant of God Thomas Taylor's cruel Hardships and Sufferings, that he went through for Christ, and his Truth's Sake. He finish'd his Days at Stafford with his Wife, in 1681. after he had been an able Preacher of the Gospel from about 1652. And is at Rest with the Lord: And

George Fox's Testimony, &c.

Blessed is he that Dies in the Lord, yea, saith the Spirit, his Works follow him.

*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the Death of all his Saints, Psal.
116. 15.*

*Edmonson in Middlesex,
the 24th of the First
Month, 1681.*

George Fox.

Christopher

Christopher Taylor's TESTIMONY

Concerning

Thomas Taylor.

MY deceased Brother *Tho. Taylor* was a Man, who, in his tender Years, had a Sence of Sin upon him, and saw a Necessity of coming and attaining to a State of Righteousness and Faithfulness to God that he might please him; so that for several Years he was exercised under the Spirit of Bondage and great Fears, lest he should miss of Eternal Salvation, and so come to be a true Seeker and Inquirer after the best Things; and the Lord was Good unto him in a preparative Work, as I may say, before he came to know the Sabbath of Eternal Rest in Christ Jesus.

And as Light and Life appeared and sprung up in its Measure in the Land of his Nativity, the Lord in Mercy gave him a Share in it, and a Fear came upon his Heart, to preserve him in a State of Integrity and Simplicity, which kept him very Sober in his Conversation, and Restrained him from many Evils others fell into; so that he was accounted by many in those days who were Honest-minded, to be a Religious Conscientious young Man: And the Lord gave him Sights and Openings of good Things at hand, and opened a Door of Hope unto him, that he should see the Lord's Blessed Day of his Heavenly and Powerful Appearance, and, with *Cornelius*, waited and longed for God's Kingdom, and Powerful Appearance unto his Soul. And when that blessed Instrument in God's Hand, *George Fox*, came into the North to preach and declare the Everlasting Gospel of Glad Tidings to Mankind, and to such who were waiting to be delivered from the Bondage of Sin and Unrighteousness, this Dear Man was glad and was convinced of the Truth, which was demonstrated in the Evidence of God's Spirit and Holy Power unto him and many others: So that the Light and Truth broke up in him, to the breaking of his Heart before the Living God,

Christopher Taylor's Testimony

God, and the making of his Soul tender in Humility, and the Dispensation of the Spirit of true Judgment, and Burning seized on his Inward Man, and pure Tremblings before the Lord seized upon him, and Judgment did so effectually take place in the Operation of the Authority of the Mighty God, that his Inward Man rejoiced, that now he was come to know one of the Great Days of the Son of Man. And the Work of the Lord was begun in his Heart, so that his Soul cried mightily to God for Judgment, to Judge and Condemn for ever, all that was Contrary to the Word of his Pure Power. And the Lord heard his true Cries, which himself, by his own Grace, had raised up in him, and extended his Mercies to him, and fulfilled that Saying, *A bruised Reed shall be not break, and smoking Flax shall be not quench, until he send forth Judgment to Victory.* So Victory he came to know, and Deliverance to his Soul, through the Exercise of Faith and Patience in the way of Righteousness; and the Lord raised him up to be a living Witness to his Heavenly Power, and the breaking forth of its Blessed Day of Light, and sent him forth to Preach the Everlasting Gospel, and to turn many to Righteousness; and he became a Faithful Labourer and Servant of Jesus Christ in his Harvest and Vineyard, and many are his Witnesses, how Faithfully he served God, and how truly he cared for the Flock of Jesus Christ, where-ever he came, and laboured in the Faith, as one wholly given up to Spend and be Spent, in that Work the Lord had committed to him. Many and Great were his Sufferings from Wicked Men who sometimes lay in wait for him, to have taken away his Life; and tedious it would be to repeat the Hardships he underwent, and great Sufferings he endured, by the Malicious Instruments of Satan. But the Lord delivered him thorow all the Scourgings, Buffetings and Evil Treatments of Unreasonable Men. As to Imprisonment he suffered much in several Prisons in this Nation, as at *Appleby in Westmoreland*, at *York*, *Leicester* and *Coventry*, and last of all above ten Years Imprisonment in *Stafford*; and was there Premunired because he could not Swear. He was a Faithful Prisoner of Jesus Christ, and kept his Blessed Testimony over the Heads of Wicked Brutish Savage and Unreasonable Men he met withall in his Imprisonments. It is hard to utter what he passed thorow in those Evil Dens amongst such Savage Beasts, but the Lord upheld him, blessed him, and delivered him out of all; and Dear and Near he was unto his God who upheld him, Everlasting Honour be unto his Name: Deeply am I affected when I read him in the Sence of Life, how Safe the Lord kept him, so that the Course of his Life was Eminently Exemplary, so Grave, Tender and Humble he was, and Self denying. Well it is and will be for all who are so truly preserved to God as he was, I am perswaded none can justly tax his Life and Conversation,

versation, or present a Spot or Stain upon his Garment, whilst he lived, after he was called to the Lord's Work and Service. Oh! have I said in my Heart, What Happiness is it to those who are so kept and safely preserved, to Honour God and Preach his Gospel, as well in Life and Conversation, as in Words and Doctrine.

And as to his Testimonies in Writing, which are here given forth to be read, they are plain and easie to be understood by every unprejudiced Person that reads them in Simplicity with the Light of Christ, there are various things testified against the Sins and Evils of the Times, for he laboured much for the Nations and Peoples Good, that they might be kept out of Debauchery, Wickednesses, Games, Sportings and Evils of all sorts, that if possible such Evils as too much abounded in our Nation, might not have that Liberty, or Pestilential Disposition, as to Leaven and beget People further from God, and as a Leprosie to spread over the Nation. Also he was tender over the Lord's Innocent People, lest they should fall on the right Hand or on the left, and so lose their Habitations in the Truth. He was right spirited to discern the Wiles of Satan, and to instruct and give Warning to such as might be misled into any Evil Condition under the Pretence of Truth to fight against it: I believe he was never known, since he preached the Everlasting Gospel committed to him, to turn his Back of any Enemy, to give way to him, of what Size or Sort soever he was, or how Subtle soever the Devil could make him, the Lord gave him a Sight beyond the Subtlety of Satan, and when he was Spent in the Service the Lord had called him unto, in a good old Age, he departed this Life, and finished his Course with Joy and Everlasting Rejoycing, to the Praise and Glory of the Everlasting God, who for ever is to be admired of all his Saints, honoured and magnified for ever and for ever more, World without End. *Amen.*

Christopher Taylor.

Thomas

Thomas Tayloz's TESTIMONY Concerning his FATHER.

A Short Testimony lives with me to bear for my Dear Father, *Thomas Taylor*, that True and Faithful Servant of the Lord, who was Born near *Skipton* in *Yorkshire*, and was brought up a Scholar and sent to the University, and in process of time he came to be a National Minister, and so continued for some Years ; but in those Days he had not many Equals, for he was a Man of a Tender Spirit, seeking after a further Attainment of the Knowledge of God and his Holy Way, *whom to know is Life Eternal*, which the Lord in his own due time made known unto him. After he had heard the Word of Life declared in the Demonstration of God's Holy Spirit through his Faithful Messenger *George Fox*, he was then evidently Convinced of the Blessed Truth, as it is in *Jesus* ; he never after turned his Back upon it ; many Days and Nights of great Sorrow and Anxiety of Spirit he underwent, until the Old Leaven was purged out by the Spirit of Judgment, and then he became a Vessel of Honour fit for the Lord's Service, and left his Benefice which he then had at *Richmond* in *Yorkshire*, not consulting with Flesh and Blood what he should do for a Livelihood, but trusted the Lord that he would provide for him and his Family, he having then a Wife and Five small Children, whom he afterward, through the good Providence of God lived to see brought up to be Men and Women. Now this Faithful Servant of the Lord not distrusting of the Mercies of God, gave up freely whatsoever was Dear and Near unto him, that the Lord required of him, that he might win Christ the Lord, who had Visited him with his Day-spring from on high, and Ruled him by his Grace, and gave unto him the Word of Life to declare unto the Sons and Daughters of Men, Warning and Admonishing them to turn from their evil ways, and to seek the Lord whilst he might be found ; and

Great

great was his Labours and Travels in those Days, being moved often to go into Market-places and Steeple-houses, to declare the Word of the Lord to the People, where he often met with great Opposition and Sufferings from the Hands of Unreasonable Men, but the Lord by his Mighty Power delivered him wonderfully out of their Hands, and many long and tedious Imprisonments this good Man underwent in his Day, but with great Patience and Contentedness of Mind, knowing it was for his bearing his Testimony to the Lord's Blessed Truth, and not for evil-doing: And this I have further to say for this Worthy and Honourable Servant of Christ, who loved not his Life unto the Death, that he might serve the Lord in his Day, who was a Faithful and True Minister of the Everlasting Gospel, and laboured mightily in Word and Doctrine, and many in this Nation were Convinced by that powerful Word of God that run through him, and they have great Cause to Bless and Praise the Name of the Lord, even as I may say on his behalf, for he was a Zealous Man for the Truth in his Day, and was one of the Worthies in *Israel*, who went through many Combates both with Professors and Prophane; and, by the Assistance of God's Holy Spirit, oftentimes put them to silence, and the Truth prevailed over all, Blessed be the Name of the Lord for Ever.

And now not being willing to be too tedious to the Reader, else I could mention many more things concerning my Dear Father, who was a Faithful Follower of the Lamb wheresoever he led him, through good Report and bad Report, for he valued nothing so much in this World as the Propagation of the Truth, for his Life was hid with Christ in God, at whose Right Hand there is Joy and Rivers of Pleasure, and that for Evermore. And a little before my Father's Departure out of this World, as he lay upon his Sick-bed, several Friends that came to Visit him standing by him, he being very sensible to the last, spoke on this wise, *I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God*, and so departed like a Lamb, and is gone to his Everlasting Rest, to receive that weighty Crown of Glory that is laid up in store for all them that loves the Appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ, and keeps their Garments unspotted of this World.

Middlesex, the 3d Day of
the 3d Month called
May, 1697.

Thomas Taylor, Jun.

A short
TESTIMONY
O F

Hannah Tayloz,

Concerning her Dear Father

Thomas Taylor.

THis I have to say, concerning this dear *Servant* of the Lord, who followed the *Lamb* through many *Tribulations*, and wash'd his Garments white in his Blood.

That he served the Lord with a perfect Heart, and that he was endued with the *Spirit* of *Wisdom* and of *Understanding* in the *Truth*, which he did value above all the World, and all the *Preferments* thereof: For he counted all as *Dross* and *Dung*, in Comparison of that *Pearl* of *Price*, which he Laboured for both *Night* and *Day*.

Yea, for *Sion's* Sake he could not rest, and for *Jerusalem's* Sake he could not hold his Peace.

Because the *Spirit* of the Lord was upon him, and he had Anointed him to be a *Preacher* of *Glad-Tidings* to the *House* of God's *Israel*.

But he was a *Reprover* of the *Ungodly*, yea his Testimony was against all *Wickedness* and *Evil-doers*.

Yea, he was clad with *Zeal*, as with a *Cloak*, and with the *Righteousness*, which God had put upon them, as with an *Helmet*.

Yea, he was a *Valiant Soldier* indeed, he fought a good *Fight*, he kept the *Faith*; and from henceforth for him was laid up a *Crown* of *Life*, which at the time appointed he did receive, with all the *Redeemed* of the Lord, who rest from their Labour, and their *Works* follow them.

Hannah Taylor.

Robert

Robert Barrow's TESTIMONY

Concerning

Thomas Taylor.

HE being a Man with whom I was Acquainted and Conversant for the space of Thirty Years, some part of our Acquaintance in the time of our Notion and Outward Profession of Religion in the form thereof, but the most of our time was after God in Mercy had opened our Understanding, and revealed his Son in us by the Word of Life, and Spirit of Truth, to know Christ in us the Hope of Glory.

He was Educated and Bred up at one of the Colledges of *Oxford*, and became a Parish Preacher, and had a Place in the County of *Westmoreland*, yet in those Days he was a Seeking Man, having Real Desires to understand the Things of God, and the Mysteries of his Kingdom, and was a Man of an Honest Life, and Clean Behaviour, and in his Preaching and Judgment was more Refined than the rest of his Neighbouring Priests, and many of his Hearers were a People commended of the Common Hireling Priests of the World, which Priests Nicknamed his Hearers *Roundheads* and *Puritans*, and many of those so called came frequently from the next Parish and Town of *Kendall* to hear him, amongst whom I was one; and he used to let *John Audland* and *Francis Hongill* sometimes Preach in his Pulpit in that Profession, before either he or they was clearly Convinced of or Come to the Eternal Truth, and awakened by the Power of God.

And in as much as that while he was a Publick Priest, he would not Baptize his Children at the Font, nor Sign them with the Sign of the Cross, so that the other Priests were offended at him, and upon some Discourse about it, they agreed upon a Dispute to be held at *Kendall* Parish Steeple-house, where was a very great Auditory, and Three Priests appeared against him to prove Baptizing of Infants by Scripture, which they could not do, and he came over them all, and some of the
Hearers

Robert Barrow's Testimony

Hearers run up *Kendall-street* crying, *Mr. Taylor hath got the Day!* *Mr. Taylor hath got the Day!* which Outcry grieved the Priests: This was in the Year 1650.

And about Two Years after *George Fox* came into *Westmoreland*, and Preached the Everlasting Gospel and Power of God, in the Demonstration of the Spirit of Eternal Life, and many of those called *Puritans* was Convinced and Broken by the Power of God.

And the said *Thomas Taylor* was almost left alone, it being a very great Cross to become a Fool to the World, and lose his Benefit, his Wife being a pretty high Woman, having Six young Children, and nothing else to live on, yet he gave up all, laying aside all superfluity of Naughtiness, and received with Meekness the Ingrafted Word, which is able to save the Soul, and sanctifie throughout in Body, Soul, and Spirit.

And shortly after *Margaret* his Wife was Convinced, and laid aside all her finery of Apparel, and trusted Providence for a Livelihood for her self and small Children, and became a very good Friend, and kept the Faith, and laid down her Head in Peace in the Town of *Stafford*, a Year or more after her Dear Husband Died, who Died and was Buried in the same Town of *Stafford*.

So *Thomas Taylor* having received the Truth of God in the Love of it, and denied himself in all things for the sake of it, in a short time he had his Mouth opened, by the Opening and Inspiration of the Word of Life, by which his Soul was then quickened, and he concerned in the Motion of God, and Authority of his Name, to describe the Darkness of the Parish Hirelings, so that they rose up against him, and, by the Aid of the then Unbelieving Magistrates, got him to Prison in *Appleby* Goal, where he grew in the Knowledge of God, and Government of Christ Jesus, and after he was released out of Prison, Travelled abroad, and was a Living Instrument in the Hand of the Lord to the Convincing of many.

And he being a Man full of Zeal and Integrity, and being filled with the Spirit, was always in Truth's Service, that when he had been going on the Road, he commonly had a Word of Caution to Professor and Profane; and some of his Old Hearers who did not receive Truth, I have seen him speak to them on the Market-day in *Kendall street*, and sometime go to their Houses to exhort, admonish, and reprove, as the Lord directed; or if he had been Travelling on the High-way, and seeing Boys playing on the First Day in the Summer-time, and their Parents or Old People sitting besides them, he would Preach to them, so that he was always concerned for God's Glory, and Truth's Praise, and Propagating of his Glorious Gospel of Peace: He was a Man I loved

loved when he was a Priest, and more abundantly when he was a Gospel Preacher : He was a Comely Man of Person, Fair and Ruddy, his Hair Gray before he Died, being of a Good Old Age. I was at his Funeral in the Town of *Stafford*, where was divers Hundreds of People; and I was concerned in Testimony in the Lord's Power among them. And though it had been a dark Persecuting Town, yet divers of the Priest's Hearers being his Neighbours, whose Children he had Taught in the Prison, they did there give their Testimonies, and said, *He was a good Man, and his Words and Counsel they believed should never be forgot*; and further said, *They had not such another to Bury in the Town of Stafford*.

And as he Lived Honestly, he Died Honourably; yea, even in the Lord, and his good Works follows him, the Reward whereof he is in the Possession of a Life that's Everlasting, out of the reach of his Adversaries.

*London, the 9th of the 11th
Month, 169^o.*

Robert Barrow.

William

William Fallowfield's TESTIMONY

Concerning

Thomas Taylor.

THis short Testimony is with me to give concerning *Thomas Taylor* having good knowledge of him that he was a Man of a harmless Life and Conversation, in which he was a good Saviour, his Conversation confirming his Doctrine, God had undoubtedly indued him with Patience, and had committed to him a Dispensation of the Gospel which he was both a Preacher of, and a great Sufferer for; his Patience in his Sufferings manifested his Christianity, he never sought his Liberty by any indirect Means, but waited patiently till the Lord effected it and when at Liberty he Travelled much abroad, and Labour'd much for Truth's Prosperity; God that called him, did in all things fit him for that Work in which he employ'd him, and his Labour therein was very Effectual, both for the Comforting and Establishing those already Convinced, as also for the Convincing of many, as many Living Witnesses that he hath left behind can Testifie, also the stopping of the Mouths of many Opposers: He had a Word of Counsel to the Weak and Feeble, and a sharp Reprover of Disobedient, Loose-minded ones, he was altogether Accomplish'd for that Work whereunto his Lord call'd him. And what shall I say, but that I have Dear Unity with that Spirit that he was act'd by, and doth see him in that which is Immutable; his Bow was always bent, and retained its strength; his Arrows were sharp, and often pierced the Uncircumcised; and as one well skill'd, he mist not his Mark; the Churches amongst whom he was Con- versant wants him, for he was a Faithful Labourer in his Day, he sought not his own, but others good, walking according to the Example of him that call'd him, in which he was fervent and diligent, Preaching the Word both in Season and out of Season; and though he be taken from us as to Visibilty, yet his Life and Memory lives with

us, several sweet Expressions came from him in the time of his Illness, and was very sweetly kept in that time of his Weakness; he lay ill not long, though for a considerable time an Indisposition of Body did attend him, yet his Love and Good-will was such to the Truth, that, as one striving against his Distemper, he kept not his Chamber long, but went to Meetings, and visited Friends, but at last it prevailed over him, and brought him to his Bed, where he Died the 18th of the First Month 1681. in the Sixty-fifth Year of his Age: I had Dear Unity with him, and with those good savoury Expressions that proceeded from him, which tended to Unity and Concord amongst Friends, which, while he lived, he was Careful to preserve; he had a great Delight in it, and laboured much for it. In a word, he was a Man of Peace; and as he Delighted in it, now is a Possessor of it, and of that Joy that is Immutable, in which he lives with his God; a Possessor of that Blessedness and Reward, which through the same Faith and Patience, we that are yet behind, shall assuredly obtain as therein we keep, in the Lord's time. Many good things he wrote in his Day; if thou read this Book, thou wilt perceive and meet with good Exhortations in it, which will I hope tend to thy Strength and Encouragement.

William Fallowfield.

A short
TESTIMONY
Concerning that
Faithful Servant of the Lord
Thomas Taylor,
Whose Memory is Blessed.

DEAR *Tho. Taylor* he was a Man who loved the Truth with a sincere Mind, and sought the Honour thereof, and not himself: He was ready at all times to speak a word for God, as there was occasion to inform the Minds of People, to that which would stand them in stead, when time here shall be no more: He was a very good Instrument amongst us, and a blessed Example in his Conversation, which did bespeak him to be the Servant of Christ Jesus: He loved the Prosperity of Truth more than all other things whatsoever, and for that was he given up in Soul, Body and Spirit, to serve the Lord and his Generation Faithfully, Travelling from Place to Place for that end; and as he lived in the Truth, so he finished his Testimony in the same. And though his Body be removed from us, and gone to the Earth from whence it came, yet his Spirit lives amongst us, and his Life shall never die. Truly I am not without a living Sence upon my Spirit, what a Loss we have of him amongst us, (who was always ready to serve the Truth, and the least in it,) and Sorrow is ready to seize upon me in the Consideration thereof; yet when I consider, that it is according to the Will of the Lord, I am therein well content, knowing that he hath this Advantage of us that are left behind (*viz.*) Is freed from Danger of falling into the Snares of this World, which

Mary Comberford's Testimony, &c.

which we are liable to whilst in this Body, except we keep in that 1658
which is only able to keep us whilst we remain here: And I do be-
lieve that the Lord will raise up the same Life in others to Testifie
to the same Truth which he lived in, and that the Testimony there-
of shall never fall: This is great Comfort to me, and all who love
the Lord, to whom be living Praises, Honour, Glory and Obedience,
given for ever and for ever more, from my living Soul, which he hath
quicken'd to himself, by his Living Power, and Heavenly Life; to him
I say be all the Glory given now and always. *Amen.*

The 26th of the First
Month 1681.

Mary Comberford.

D

Thomas

1658
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Thomas Taylor's EPISTLES.

T O FRIENDS.

MY Dear Friends, and longed after in the Lord, whose Minds are turned in by the Light of Jesus Christ from the Worlds Worships and Ways, in measure, to wait upon God, that you may learn by the Teaching of his Spirit in you, how to worship him in Spirit and Truth, who is the Fountain of all your Soul's Happiness; prize his great Love to your Souls every one of you in particular, and wait to receive the Law from his own Mouth, to the quickning and reviving your Souls out of the Death, and for the daily watering and refreshing that which lives of himself in you; for if the Spirit of him that raised ^{these} which ^{are} dead dwell in you, he shall by that Spirit quicken your Mortal Bodies; for all whose Hearts are purified through the Faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, are in the Covenant of that Everlasting Love of the Father, which gives to all that wait on him a full Possession of the Inheritance of the Saints in Light; but Wo and Misery from the Lord to the Unclean in the Earth: And therefore mind your Soul's Guide, which is pure Light of Jesus Christ, and be Faithful unto the Lord in whatever he makes manifest in you to be his Will, and let not the Worlds Frowns or Smiles cause you to draw back from the Truth in any thing, which the Saints have so great Recompence of Reward in, but be simple, be pure, be harmless, be innocent, be Lambs, and walk as Lights, amongst a Generation of crooked and devouring Minds, and think not strange concerning any Trial, but embrace the Cross, which is the Saints Rejoicing, and in Patience wait to see the Fleishly Mind Crucified with it, which would have ease below God, and do all things

in the fear of God, and let not the Ear be open to the Enemy, but 1658
 mind that which shows you the strait way continually, and learn to love
 one another more and more, for Love is of God, but none can love as
 Brethren of Christ, but those that love God, and keep the Command-
 ments; and as you follow Christ in the way of his Cross and Sufferings,
 you will Delight in one anothers Fellowship; but as any depart from
 the Light, and Iniquity abounds in any, the Love in that Person wax-
 eth cold: So God Almighty Bless you with his Everlasting Mercy, to
 set free your Minds from all your Sins, to run the way of his Holy
 Commandments; forefts


Thomas Taylor.

1658
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T O
F R I E N D S
A T

Stickland-head.

DEAR and precious Friends of God, who into the Fellowship of the everlasting Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God, the Light of the World, that Lighteth every Man that cometh into the World are called, and who have tasted of that Heavenly Gift, and upon that true Bread do feed, Grace, Mercy and Peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, be among you, and in you all, every where, in every place, multiplied with the Increases of the eternal Power of the Holy Spirit in all your Hearts, *Amen.* *Thomas Taylor* your Brother and Companion in the Patience, Sufferings and Kingdom of Christ, unto you all sendeth Greeting, and by the Spirit of the Lord God doth hereby give you all to understand, That it is the true Grace of God, and Power of Life, into which you are called; and which you have received, and wherein you stand, and whereby you are enlightened, and have been given to see the old dead way of Sin and Formality to avoid it; and the good and living way of Truth and Righteousness in Spirit, to embrace and follow it to the Praise of our Holy Heavenly Father World without end: And this Grace of God that hath thus brought Salvation to us, and is our Teacher and Guide in the good Way, is the same that would teach all, and would have all Men to be Saved; and (to that purpose) hath appeared to all Men, to leave all without Excuse. So Dear Hearts, all in the Light and Power of this Pure Truth of our God made manifest in us, dwell, and therein let every Soul bathe it self, and drink thereof abundantly, and therewith be covered, that as an Helmet, Sword and Buckler, it may be unto all our Souls, against all Assaults of the Enemy, and a sure Hiding-place from Storm and Tempest. And the Lord God of Glory upon this Rock of Ages you all preserve, that living Water and living Bread, even the Flesh and Blood

Blood of Jesus Christ, your Souls may here feed upon, and be perfectly 1658
nourished with it, up into the Fullness of Life, and Perfection of Peace, 
for ever more: That so upon the Wing of this living Spirit, and Power
of our God in Christ, we may be all continually carried, and under the
Shadow thereof be warmed, and caused to grow triumph and rejoice
over all Weaknesses, Wants, and Powers of Darknes whatsoever:
For greater is he, Dear Hearts, that is in us and for us (the glorious
God) in Light and Righteousness, Ruling and Saving, than he that is
in the World, (the Power of Darknes) raging and destroying: And
the World, with its Strength, Joy and Glory, which deceiveth and is
deceived, is to be trampled upon, and kept under foot, as a thing that
perisheth, and passeth away with the Fashion, Trouble and Remembrance
of it: But the Glory of our God, and Goodness of his Love, with the
Power of his Truth, Fatness of his House, and Peace and Fullness of
his Christ and Kingdom endures for ever, dearly to be prized of us,
Praises, Praises, everlasting Praises to his Holy Glorious Arm of power-
ful Love for evermore: And let every Creature in Heaven and Earth
Praise him, and all his wondrous Works in us and for us where these
shall come, and in all his redeemed Ones every where, glorifie him in
Purity, in the Immortal Mansions of Light and Love, that cannot
change nor be taken from us for ever and ever. So again, all Dear
Hearts, Brethren and Sisters in the Covenant of Life, Children and
Servants of the Most High God, in the Life and Strength of God, and
his everlasting Light of Truth, manifest, dwell and walk in it indeed,
grow over all the World, and Powers of Darknes and Wickedness
whatsoever, that the Seed of the Promise inheriting, and the Seed of
the Serpent and Transgression cast out, you may indeed be true Wit-
nesses of, to the Glory of the Lord God, and Good of your precious
Souls for ever: For he that Believes, and in the pure Faith truly waits,
hath and knows the Witness in himself, (the Spirit) which he hath of
God for his everlasting Comforter; but the Witness of God, and his
Face, is against him that doth Evil, of the Jew first, and also of the
Gentile: But the Love of God, and Glory to such as continue Faithful
and Patient in the Well-doing, bearing the Cross, and enduring it to
the End. And Blessed are all that keep the Commandments of Life,
that they may witness a daily Access and Freedom to the Tree of Life
and Throne of Mercy, to feed thereon, and Live for ever: For now
is the Life arisen, and the true Light, that lighteth every Man that
cometh into the World appeared; and of his Fullness have all we
received, even Grace for Grace; and his Commandments are not now
to us Grievous, Praise to his Name for ever: And our Rock is not like
the World's Rock, even many of themselves already being Judges; all
Holy

1658 Holy Praises to him that hath not cast us off for former Ignorance and Unbelief, but hath in this his day of endless Mercy stretched out his Arm of Power for us, and his Wing of Love over us, even to everlasting Salvation. So be it.

From the place of my outward
Bonds here at *Appleby in West-*
moreland, in the first Month
——— 1658.

Thomas Taylor.

Let this be Communicated amongst the Faithful of the Lord, in their Meet-
ings or otherwise, as Freedoms within and Movings are.

T O
F R I E N D S
I N

Warwick-shire and Stafford-shire, &c.

MY Dear Friends in Christ Jesus, in *Warwick-shire, Stafford-shire, Worcester-shire and Hereford-shire*, with the parts thereunto adjoining, where my service in the Lord hath been, my tender Love in the Bowels of God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ doth dearly Salute ye all, Praying in the Spirit for you all, and for all Saints; that as ye have received the Truth of God through the Persecutions and Reproaches of the present times, so you may all with the abounding of the Grace, Mercy and Peace of the Everlasting God amongst you, be found therein Continuing and Walking to the Glory of his Name to the End, to the receiving of a full Reward, and finishing the Testimony of Christ amongst you to all Joy and holy Rejoycing in the Spirit, and to the full assurance of Faith in the sight of God our Father, Blessed for ever; who hath chosen us, and called us out of the Death in the Powerful Word of Truth to be his Children and Servants, to bring forth Living Fruits of Righteousness to his Glory; and to bear his Name thro' the daily Cross and Sufferings of his Son before the People of the World, that he, in all things, may be Honoured, who is the Head Christ Jesus, and we his Members, through the Operation of his Power in us, may be given daily to feel the Glory of his Love, which shed it self abroad in every part of the Body, by Vertue of Union with him, and Fellowship in the Eternal Spirit of Life. And this is the Portion of the Living Branches, who Faithful in his Work of Faith are found, and abide, not looking back at the Glory of *Egypt*, nor murmur at the hardness of the way, but pressing forward to the Mark set before them in Righteousness, which is of God, where the man of the Earth comes not, but is shut out for ever. So God Almighty your Hearts keep clean, and your Understandings always open, to discern the things that differ, and to chuse the things of the Spirit of God, which will be to your Ever-

1658 Everlasting Peace and Glory in the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father, to whom be all Glory and Honour for ever, *Amen.*

And now, dear Friends, as for my outward Condition, you may hereby know, that it was so ordered, that within two or three Days after I was got to my outward Being in the edge of *Yorkshire*, here was an Assizes to be at this Town, called *Appleby* in *Westmoreland*, some Fourteen or Fifteen Miles North of it, whether I had movings to come, not knowing my service in particular until I came there; and therefore when I was come to the Town, after pretty Service in the Town amongst the Country People, I was ordered to go into their *Steeple-house*, at the time when the Sermon before the Judges, as they call it, was in hand, and there waiting in the Will of God, and hearing unsound Doctrine delivered, I was moved in Spirit Publickly upon a Seat amongst them all, immediately after the Man had done to declare against it, for which they pull'd me down, and to fulfil the Scripture, hawled me out of their Synagogue; and as I passed in their Hands amongst the Croud, through the *Grave-yard*, and into the Streets, I sounded forth the Day of the Lord, and the Judgments of our God upon all the Wicked, Head and Tail; and for that, together for what was done in the *Steeple-house*, they further hawled me by Command, as they said, to the Prison, the common Goal, where I remained till the next Day, and then afterwards was led amongst the *Fettered Felons*, as they call them, to their Judgment Seat three several times: Thus was I numbred among the Transgressors, and made contented to bear Christ's Reproach: And, though the Enemies did not only prepare a Bill of Indictment against me, and by their *Juries*, as they call them, Judged me guilty, as they call it, of a Disturbance; but also the Judge whom God will Judge, did set Five Marks Fine upon me, and Imprisonment until I should pay it; though indeed the Disturbance and Offence was on their part, for they Disturbed me in the Precious Work of the Lord, and have kept me hither to in the Goal for my good Will towards them, the Lord forgive them, for they do they know not what; and so, what in them lieth, provoke the Wrath of God against themselves. But Blessed be the Lord, tho' they have, and do use me as is said; yet the Truth, both at the time of my Examination, and since, hath had Dominion over them, and the Friends of Truth in the Country, rather encouraged to go on in the Truth, than any way daunted; the Glorious God of our Life and Peace be Magnified: And so let all your Hearts, dear Friends in the Living Power and Truth of our God, be Comforted and Established, even to you I speak, who know the goodness of the Cross of Christ, and submit willingly unto it in all things, not to be Terrified at all by the Enemies endeavours, knowing that through many Tribulations we must daily pass to the Kingdom.

Kingdom. And this is a Faithful Saying, that *If we Suffer with Christ, we shall 1658*
Reign with him: And truly, Friends, the Love of God to my Soul hath
 been so preciously, and is daily Manifested in this Prison-Condition,
 that, if it could be Expressed, you would never be much troubled after
 it, at the Sufferings for the Truths Sake.

So all in the Light Walk, and in the Power of Truth Dwell, that
 you may bring forth Fruits in all things to the Living God, that in
 Peace you may lay down your Heads, and with joy give in your Accounts
 to God continually, as Good and Faithful Stewards and Servants in his
 Vineyard, and work whereunto you are called: And the Lord God of
 Fulness supply what may seem wanting unto you, or any of you, in
 regard of mine, or other Friends in the Ministry, our absence in this
 time; knowing that we are not our own, but in the disposing of Him,
 who Rules and Orders all according to the good Pleasure of His own
 Will, and that for good in all things, to such as Fear Him, and in Spirit
 truly wait: For truly, Friends, I had thoughts of being up amongst you
 again, may be before this time, if this or the like had not hindered,

So Rests your dear Brother in the Faith and Service of the Gospel,

Thomas Taylor.

1659

T O

F R I E N D S.

Dear Friends,

MY Tender Love in the Lord Jesus Christ doth dearly salute you all, wishing and desiring, even from the Bowels of our Tender Father's Love, all pure Refreshings, and holy, powerful Strengthening unto all your Souls, that you may be born up and carried on in the way of his pure Fear, and heavenly Righteousness, which he hath brought you into, and blessed you in, to do his Will, and to glorifie his Name for Ever, that our Souls may live together in the sweet Unity of Love, Life and Peace with our God, out of the reach of the present Evil World, to sound forth his holy Praises World without end, even in and under our own Vine and Fig-tree Christ Jesus, where none can come to make us afraid, and where the Troublers of *Israel* neither do nor ever shall come to disturb our Happy Peace and Rest World without end: For, Dear Hearts, however things seem to be in the outward, yet truly God is good to *Israel*, even such as are of a broken, contrite, pure and clean Heart. So God Almighty you all keep and preserve, even so in his pure Love for Ever, rests yours, all Dearly in the Love of our Father.

Thomas Taylor.

T O

1660
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A

Loving and Seasonable Advice

TO THE

Children of Light

From a BROTHER,

Thomas Taylor.

YE Children of the Most High, Begotten to God by the Word of his Power, which liveth and endureth for Ever, and who through the Leadings of his Heavenly Hand are brought through the Vail (that is the Flesh) into the Holiest of all, the Banqueting-house of the Father, where his Banner over you is Love all Day long, and so are come to read your Names written in the Book of Life, which is a Mystery hid from all the Wisdom of the World: I say unto you, O all ye Children of the Heavenly Wisdom, keep your Habitation, keep in the Wisdom and Strength of the Lord God Almighty your Father, and give not your holy Things to Dogs, nor cast your Pearls before the Swine, for the Dogs will turn again and rent you, and the Swine will tread the Pearl under their Feet. So be ye wise in the dispensing and dealing out of your Heavenly Father's Treasures which he hath be-trusted you withal, and made ye Stewards of for his Glory. O stand in awe, and sin not in this mighty Matter; be not too lavish (amongst the wicked Contenders) of your Master's Choice Goods, to get a Praise to your selves, but be content to be as Fools before them, rather than to let the *Babylonians* into your Treasures, yea, though they make a dissembling shew of Love, lest a Judgment follow, as it did to *Heczekiah*, of whom you may read, *Isa. 39.* Chapter throughout. O my Friends, the Serpent is Subile, and *Herod* is Cruel, and therefore wait in the

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dread

1660 dread of the Lord God, to feel and favour the Serpent's Voice in all
 for no more will any that are guided by the Serpent receive Truth in
 the Love of it, though it be never so plainly told them where it is, and
 what it is in it self, and what it will be to those that receive it in Love.
 I say no more will they love it, than *Herod* did the young Child,
 whom he only enquired after that he might slay him. So we may daily
 see that the Contenders and vain Enquirers of this present time are of
Herod and the Serpent's Race, who cannot endure to hear of the Birth
 of that Seed that is above every other Seed, and is King of the true
Jews in Spirit, and to whom all the Fleishly Births, under what Name
 or Profession soever, must be subjected and bow: And as the love of
 the Lord doth indeed constrain us as freely and abundantly to Commu-
 nicate of our Heavenly Treasure to the pure in Heart, who hunger
 and thirst after Righteousness, as we have received them, even so doth
 the same Love and the Wisdom thereof engage us to do as our Heav-
 enly Father doth, who hides the things of his Kingdom from the Serpent's
 Seed, the Wise and Prudent of the World, and so the Cross is the safe
 way; and so, as we stand in the Cross, our preaching is to the Jew outward
 a stumbling-block, and to the *Greeks* foolishness, as in former Times, *1 Cor.*
1. And so in all our Disputings and Reasoning with the World about the
 Things of God's Kingdom, we must mind the Cross, lest for want of a
 Hedge, the wild Boar of the Forrest get in and hurt the tender Plants
 of God. Friends, strive not in your Wills for Victory, but wait in the
 Light to feel the Spiritual Weapon, the sharp Two-edged Sword of
 the Spirit of God to cut down the Adversary. There came one to
 Christ and said, *Are there few that shall be saved?* And he said, *Strive thou*
to enter in at the strait Gate; so his Answer was in the Cross, and he
 minded more the Edification of the Man's Soul, than to please the busi-
 body's curious Mind; so we must dwell in his Wisdom, and that will
 lead into Christ's Work. Another asked him, *What he must do to enter*
into Life? He answered, *What readest thou?* So to such as profess Scrip-
 ture to be their Rule, or so to bring them to the Obedience and Judg-
 ment of their Rule; and if they cannot believe Scripture, which they
 acknowledge to be true, how can they believe our words whom they
 look upon to be as Hereticks and Deceivers. *The Servant of God*, saith
 the Apostle, *must not strive, but in Meekness instructing them that oppose*
themselves to the Truth, must seek to bring them to the Truth, that thereby they
may be delivered out of the Snares of Satan, whom their Ignorance are led
Captive by him at his Will. Now, the Servant of God in this weighty
 Matter may consider what manner of Opposers these are, whether they
 stand in a lower or higher place of wickedness; for some are wicked in
 a high measure, who will neither enter into the Kingdom of God themselves.

nor suffer others; as *Elimas* the Sorcerer, *Acts* 13. 9, 10. who with-
 stood *Paul*, seeking to draw the Deputy from the Faith. These may be 1660
 more severely reprov'd, as was thereby the Apostle, but still with this
 Caution, that all be done by the pure Sword of God's Spirit, and not
 by the Wrath of Man; for the Wrath of Man works not the Righteous-
 ness of God: And such Opposers as this had Christ to do withal, a-
 gainst whom he pronounced so many Woes, declaring their wicked
 Root, by calling them Vipers and Serpents, and Children of their Fa-
 ther the Devil, *Mat.* 23. throughout, and *John* 8. 44. But to others
 who are not so high and strong in their Wickedness, much Wisdom,
 Tenderness and Patience must be used, that if God may at any time
 give them Repentance, that from the Darkness to the Light of God
 they may be turned, as *Jude* saith in his Epistle, *Ver.* 22, 23. *Of some*
have compassion, making a difference, and others save with fear, pulling them
out of the Fire, hating even the Garments spotted by the Flesh. And all my
 Dear Friends in Christ Jesus, who are at any time called forth by the
 Power of the Lord God, to Encounter your Spiritual Adversaries, the
 Disputers of this World, who *Goliath*-like, are so wise and strong in their
 own Conceit, and have so armed themselves with their Carnal Weapons,
 that they are not afraid to defie *Israel*, yea, *Israel's* God: I say, keep
 in the Power of God, and trust not to *Saul's* Armour, but wait to feel
 the little Stone cut out of the Mountain without hands, to hit the Ene-
 my in the Forehead, and to bruise his Head, and to strike at his Feet,
 that the false Foundation whereon he standeth may be removed, and so
 the Image may fall into nothing at once: And in this great Business,
 (to wit, the Lord's Controversie) my Friends, always mind your
 own Standing and Foundation, to keep close to it, and not to be driven
 from it by any means, for the Enemy will seek to draw you from your
 sure Ground, the measure of Life and Experienced Truth in you, into
 vain Janglings and fruitless Disputes, to gratifie their Corrupt Minds,
 wherein is no Edification to the Soul, which the Servant of God must
 wait in all things to edifie; and though for our Work herein we may
 be accounted as Fools by the World, who cannot judge but by the out-
 ward Appearance of things, yet with God shall we be accepted, be-
 cause Doers of his Will, and our Joy in his Sight and Presence shall
 abide, and none shall take it from us, as thus we abide in God's Will,
 Work and Covenant, who is over all Blessed for Evermore.

And Friends, of Scorers we must beware, for their Root is Rot-
 tenness, and their Ground Accursed, and the good Seed in them hath no
 place to grow.

And of such as Professing Scripture, and Wisdom, and neither can
 nor will believe that Christ lighteth every Man that cometh into the
 World

1660 World with sufficient Grace or Light, though *John* saith expressly, *That in the Word (Christ Jesus) was Life, and that Life is the Light of Men, and the Light of that Life shineth in Darknes, (to wit in Men) lighting every Man that cometh into the World; and that such as received him in that his Appearance, to them he gave Power to become Sons of God, John the first Chapter.* I say of these Unbelievers before-mentioned, it may be truly said they are Children of Darknes, and so much is not to be said to them, but even to bring them to Christ's Light in them, to know it, and learn of it, for till then they will never understand.

Also such Professors as have been long Reading Scripture, and have heard the like Testimony of the Kingdom of God from the Spirit of God in his Servants in these Days, and yet plead for outward Shadows and Sounds, and things that perish with them, to be the Way and Means of the Kingdom, and are Ignorant of the Mystery of it in Man, and so deny the Word and Power of God nigh in the Heart; and yet in this their Darknes separate themselves in Profession from others, thinking themselves to be something when indeed they are nothing; these are to be turned away from and judged.

As also such as deny sinless Perfection, and so know not the Birth of God in Man, but will plead for Sin, yea, in the Regenerate, during term of Life, as though Christ were a Minister of Sin, and could make nothing perfect like the weak Figures of the Law. Though the Scripture saith expressly, *The Birth of God sins not, and he that abides in Christ sinneth not, and that Christ the better Hope makes perfect.* See *Heb: 7. 19.* and *1 John 1. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.*

Now the Reason why the Law could make nothing perfect, was because it could not take away Sin, and so that Perfection that is not sinless is no Perfection at all; therefore it's said, *That Christ by One-offering hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified, Heb. 10. 14.* And behold the Lamb of God that takes away the Sin of the World. Amen.

T O

F R I E N D S

That Abide in the Truth:

A S A L S O

To such as are gone from it.

FR I E N D S all still mind the Light of God in you, even that which is not of this World, but leads out of the World, and the Worship, Lusts, Customs, Fashions, Traditions and Inventions thereof up to God from whom it comes, which Light was preached unto you in the Beginning, and as your Minds were turned to it and believed in it, true Judgment was executed upon the Man of Sin in you, and through the Light wherein God's Saving Power is felt, you became more than Conquerours over the World and the Mind thereof, and so you became Lovely in the Eye of the Lord the Father of Light, and so he entred into Covenant with you, and you became his, and he yours in Truth, Power and Righteousness, and his Banner over you was Love, and is Love to all who have kept their first Love, and have continued Faithful to his Witness, and have brought forth Fruits to God; you have reaped Life, because you have lived in the Spirit, and walked in the Spirit, and sown to the Spirit of Life which God hath freely given you to profit withall, and to be a Blessing unto you in the midst of the Earth: But to such amongst you who came out of *Egypt* with you, and saw God's wonderful Working at the *Red Sea*, and came through the Sea to the dry Land amongst the *Israelites* of God, but are now fallen a Lusting in the Wilderness, and with your Hearts turned back again into *Egypt*, and so cannot enter Rest with God's People because of Unbelief; I say your Condition is Sad and greatly to be lamented, and your Bondage is great, that after all your Experiences of *Pharaoh's* Oppression, and the Mourning of the Seed under his Yoke, and your Knowledge of God's great Power for you at the *Red Sea*, that you should so soon forget your own Miseries, yea, and the Mercies of God also, in delivering
of

1660 of you so Miraculously from under the Enemies Power, that you would
 be, yea are, in the Brick-kills again; What, Is it the Onyons and Gar-
 lick of *Egypt*, and Fleish-pots, that hath bewitched you that you are so
 weary of the Lord's Yoke, that the Heavenly Manna hath no Savour to
 you? O Foolish People, How are you bewitched that you should not
 love, nor like to follow the Truth, which hath wrought such Wonders
 for you: O the Treacherousness of your Unbelieving Hearts, How
 have they deceived your selves; and all who looked for Good from you?
 How Foolish and Unwise are you become, to sell the Hope of eternal
 good Things, for that which you have seen to be nothing but meer
 Husks, Shadows and Vanity. But now therefore, if it be possible, call
 in your Minds, consider in your Hearts, what it is that the Lord re-
 quireth of you, you cannot be Happy without God and his Truth, but
 he can be eternally Happy and Glorious without you, he can cloth him-
 self, and wrap up himself in eternal Light, Life, Power, Fullness and
 unspeakable Glory and Satisfaction without you, but you, without him,
 cannot enjoy one dram of Light, Life, Comfort, Satisfaction, or any
 Good, for in Christ the Light, God's Gift, all Fullness dwells, and out
 of him, or without him, nothing but Emptiness, Misery, Disappoint-
 ment and endless Woe; yea, Vanity of Vanities, and a sore Travel as
 all things under the Sun, in your best Condition, without Truth, whilst
 here; and endless Woe, without all Comfort, when gone hence; *With-*
out me, saith Christ, *ye can do nothing*: And so say I, Without Christ ye
 are nothing, nor have nothing, but are meer Beggars, Prodigals, Lost,
 Undone, Blind, Wretched and Naked Out casts, profitable for no-
 thing; so Return, Return, Repent, Repent, saith my Soul, in the
 Light of the Living to you all. So be it.

T O

F R I E N D S.

MY Dear Friends in Christ Jesus, who are Faithful in God's Covenant of Light and Life, to dwell, grow and increase; yea, and to bring forth Fruit of Righteousness to God's Glory abundantly, my true and tender Love salutes you all, and my Spirit in God rejoiceth because of you all, and I cannot but evermore, upon every remembrance of you, Praise, Laud and Magnific the great and glorious Name of our Heavenly Father, for his tender Love and tender Mercy to you all, and for the Power of his Love in Christ, whereby he hath reached help to your Souls in the needful time, when all help of Creatures was at an end; and hath raised you up from the Dead, to be his living Witnesses in the Day of his Love to *Israel*, and hath chosen you for his People, and to bear the Name of Sons and Daughters, Servants and Hand-maids in his House, to do his Service, and to bear his Name in Righteousness before the Children of Men. O my Soul is even filled with the sweet heavenly Vertue of this Love of God upon every Remembrance of you, even of you all, and every Member of the Holy Body of Jesus Christ in every place: For who can express the Beauty of your Life, and Fullness of your Treasure which you possess in his Love? O Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath chosen us, and set his pure Love upon us, whereby it comes to pass, that we are more than Conquerors over all the things of Darkness; and Powers of Evil, that would separate us from his pure Love. O Glory, Glory to his great Name, who by his pure Love hath begotten us again from the Dead, into the Image of his living, pure and holy Nature of Love, to love one another, and to reach forth pure Love in Spirit and Truth unto all, yea, unto Enemies, for at the Birth of Jesus this was founded forth by the Heavenly, even *Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men*. So that when Men hate us, and speak Evil of us, we know they have no Cause for it; for if they know our Love and good Will to them, they would love us, and much more the Father of our precious Life, by whom we are begotten into such a pure heavenly Love, as even labours and travels night and day how we may fulfil that great Service of Love, and continual Duty of good Will, that we owe to the whole Creation of God: For Oh how great is the Bondage of a great part of it, as yet being

1662 so burdened with the weight of Corruption that lyes upon it, that it ever cries unto God by reason of Oppression, and waits for the Manifestation and Enjoyment of the pure and holy Liberty of the Sons of God, wherein God alone may be glorified, and the Creature set free to run in the ways of his Commandments with Joy, and the wicked one may be put under into the Pit of everlasting Woe, there to remain for ever. So my Dear Friends and Fellow-Citizens of the New and Heavenly Jerusalem, ye True and Faithful Seed and Servants of the ever-living and true God, do you rejoyce and lift up your Heads, for from the eternal Fountain of Life and Love is your Salvation come, your Portion is upon a Fat and Fruitful Land, not as Egypt watered by Mortal Man, but as the Promised Land watered from Heaven, and made to excel all Lands in Goodness and Fruitfulness; yea, I know you Faithful ones are able to read in the Mystery where the Fullness of all is enjoyed, and all Barrenness and Disappointment done away. So my Dear Fellow-Members in the Heavenly Body and Faithful Branches of the living Vine, do you rejoyce and lift up your tender Souls in God's Name, and in his living Mercies at all times; trust, trust not in any thing, but in the Name and merciful Power of the ever-living God our tender Father, and in this Faith will be your Victory in all things; by this Faith will your Hearts be kept clean to God alone, out of all Defilements and Worldly Intanglements whatsoever; yea, and by this Faith will you be kept so continually a-top of all Powers of Darkness and Spiritual Wickedness whatsoever, that in Freedom of Mind, and Joy of Heart, you may offer your selves to your Maker and Redeemer as a reasonable Service, and pure Offering of Obedience to his Praise, as is due for ever and ever.

So my Beloved, in God's pure and precious Truth, I am your Brother and Fellow-Sufferer for the Elections sake, well satisfied in this through the unerring Spirit, that as we abide Faithful to God in our Conditions, we shall never want the Support, Joy and Comfort, and daily Supply of his abundant Love, and all-sufficient Grace; so that we need not fear the Terrors of the Night, nor noyful Plagues that destroys at Noon-day, nor the Doing of Mortal Men, because the Lord is become our sure and safe Hiding-place, and Castle of Defence, as he was to our Brethren in the Faith in all fore-going Ages. And what if they say, That we are a Poor Deceived and Contemptible People, it matters not, seeing we have God's certain Truth in us, the Foundation of our Building, and God's gracious Acceptance of us in Christ for our Strength and Glory? And what if Mens Decrees be against the Liberty of our Holy and Spiritual Worship? We must not be dismay'd for such things, for so it was in the days of his Flesh, who said, *The Servant is not greater than*

than his Lord; and he endured such Contradictions against himself for 1662
 our sakes; and he beheld his Father's Power, and in it stood to the
 overcoming of all Enemies; and so hath given a good Example what
 to do in Times of Trouble, and whither to go in Times of Need;
 for he that hath promised is near to all that fly to him for Succour, who
 both hath, and daily doth make fully manifest his Kindness and Faith-
 fulness in us, and for us, that we might be to him a People, and he to
 us a God for evermore. So into the Arms of his eternal Power, and
 Bowels of everlasting Love, I commend you all, to be kept, comforted
 and carried over all that would hurt you, or hinder you from walking
 in his good Way; and rests your dear and tender loving Brother, in
 the Patience and Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, as Bound, yet Free,
 Glory to his Name everlasting. So be it, even Amen, *Hallelujah*, Praise
 the Lord, saith my Spirit, in the Unity of your precious Life, which
 we have in his Love.

Thomas Taylor.