

THE CHRISTIAN INDEED.

DESCRIBED IN A LETTER

FROM

GAIFFER ON HIS CONVERSION TO CHRISTIANITY IN ENGLAND,

To Aly-Ben-Hayton, his Friend in Turkey.

WE SPEAK THAT WE DO KNOW.

The Third Edition.

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The Christian Indeed; Described in a Letter, etc.

Gaifer to Aly-Ben-Hayton.

Dear Hayton, You cannot be ignorant that the imperfect, though awakening information given me of the Christian Religion, by an English Slave under Captivity, to our bigoted Mahometan Neighbour, Abdala, put me upon a restless Desire of a farther Knowledge therein. This, I was convinced, could not be obtained in my present unhappy Situation; being in a Country, where it is Death to give the least Suspicion of favouring the Christian Profession; where every Eye, and every Ear were dangerous Watchers over all my Behaviour: Therefore it was, with all the Caution necessary in so hazardous an Attempt, I happily got on Board the *Expedition*, bound from Constantinople to London.

When I came to England, as soon as I had Opportunity of making my Observations, I found that the Christian Religion was in general professed throughout this Kingdom. But notwithstanding the Purity it enjoins, it appears that the Generality of its Professors were very loose in their Morals, prophane in their Discourse, and debauched in their Lives. I also found that the Professors of Christianity were divided into many religious Sects, and, what is much to be deplored, each carry their Opposition, for the most Part, against the other to that Height of Inveteracy, as if they worshipped not the same God.

This put me upon farther Enquiry in to the Principles of the Christian Religion; a Task difficult enough for a Stranger to undertake, who had then but a small Acquaintance with the English Tongue. But that Impediment was removed in a shorter Time than was expected, by the Assistance of a human, sober Gentleman, whose Profession was to teach the Languages, and instruct his Pupils in the Religion of his C. He took much Pains in teaching me both; and furnished me with such Books as were necessary: Particularly that

which they call the *Bible*, which is to Christians what the *Alchoran* is to the Mahometans. This is their perfect Rule of Faith, and contains a full Declaration of the Will of God, with a full Account of future Rewards and Punishments for the Good and Evil.

As I read these sacred Pages with an unprejudiced Mind, and a Desire of Information, I soon found how mistaken I had been concerning the Terms of Man's Acceptance with God, and of his final Salvation; namely, that it is *not by Works of Righteousness which we had done, but according to his Mercy he saved us, by the Washing of Regeneration, and the Renewing of the Holy Ghost; And that by Grace we are saved, through Faith, and that not of ourselves, it* (even Faith) *is the Gift of God.* I clearly saw, according to this Book, *That to him that could not work, previous to his Justification, but believeth on Jesus Christ, his Righteousness, being received by Faith, is imputed to him for Justification.* I saw also both the Nature and Extent of the moral Law: The Fall of Man by the Transgression of *Adam*, our general Root and Representative: That the first Covenant being broken, Man was utterly unable to obtain Salvation thereby: and that Jesus Christ, the second *Adam*, came into the World to be the Saviour and living Head of all that believe in him: For them he fulfilled the Law: For them he satisfied divine Justice: And that the only Way to eternal Life was, by receiving his Righteousness which is imputed to all them that believe.

When I began to understand something of the Differences amongst the various Professors of Christianity, I found them all remote from the Tenor of Scripture; that all within the Circle of my Acquaintance, seemed totally to neglect those Doctrines the holy Scriptures made absolutely necessary to Salvation; and warmly to contend for *Forms* and *Modes*, and whatever the Bible was either quite silent about, or laid no Stress upon. But what I wondered at most of all was, that those, who are called Clergymen, and are by the Laws of their

Country, separated from the rest of the People, to teach the Principles and Practice of their holy Religion, are, for the most Part, the greatest Strangers to the Essence of the Gospel. As for their Lives, they are as vain, trifling and irreligious as any others. They frequent all public Theatres, Balls, and the vilest Assemblies: In short, they are a common Reproach, a public Scandal, and the very Hindrance of others' Repentance, but still they call themselves the Ministers of the Gospel, the Ambassadors of Jesus Christ; and expect to be revered of all Men, for being the Followers of his Humility, his Contempt of the World, and Purity of Life.

Upon the whole, I could form no other Judgment of the Divinity of the Gospel from the Deportment of the Bulk of its Professors, and especially of their Teachers, than that it was a cunning Fable, devised only to aggrandize a Set of Men that call *themselves* the *Clergy*. Their public Exhortations faintly recommend a Conduct of Life, such as they themselves are mostly Strangers to; though it be no more than a little dry Heathen Morality. From all this, I could see them in no other Light, than the very Enemies to the Cross of Christ, the greatest Opposers of true Christianity, and Deceivers of the People.

Thus, my dear *Hayton*, instead of the real Happiness I promised myself in the Society of Christians, and the glorious Privileges of their Religion, so recommended and adorned by that poor exiled Slave: I met with very little else here in this Christian Land (so called) but Infidelity and Profaneness; which sore Disappointment hardened my Heart against all Religion whatever. What could I then conclude, but that the *Bible* was Cheat, and their Religion a Craft? And I had well nigh resolved to loose the Reigns of my Passion, and follow the Multitude to do Evil.

But one *Sabbath* Evening (and let me not forget that Day!) as I was taking a solitary Walk, musing on these Things, I passed a very crowded Assembly of People. Led, as I thought, by Curiosity, I

entered the Place with no little Contempt in my Heart. But, O my *Hayton!* How shall I describe the strange Emotions I felt, whilst Joy sat upon the Countenances of those about me. The Solemnity of the Place, and the awful Behaviour of the Assembly was such as I had never seen before; and what struck me with Wonder and deep Attention, One Spirit seemed to animate the whole Body; and what one Man offered up in Prayer, the rest made their joint Request to God for.

O what I felt when I heard the King of Kings addressed in these Words! *Gird thy Sword upon thy Thigh, O thou most mighty, and in thy Majesty ride prosperously upon the Word of Truth, Meekness, and Righteousness—Thine Arrows are very sharp in the Heart of the King's Enemies.* I trembled; and though I doubted if I had not better fly away, I could not, I dared not leave the awful Places. Prayer being ended, from the sacred Oracles, the Man of GOD read these Words, *Except a Man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.* He shewed both the Holiness of that GOD, with whom we have to do; the great *Design* of Redemption by Jesus Christ; the Depravity of our Souls, and the Nature of that Happiness which is set before us; the absolute Necessity of being born again, in order to obtain a present Pardon, and persevere to future Salvation. He not only proved the Necessity of our Regeneration from these, and many other substantial Arguments, but there was something like a Judgment-Seat set up in my own Conscience. I was by some Power, more than human, indicted, arraigned, proved guilty, and condemned. The sinful Actions of my Life were now laid open before me: I was compelled to assent to what I never knew before; namely, that all my sinful Actions proceeded from a corrupt Fountain, a Nature universally depraved and polluted.

Each Sentence he spake, came with Authority and Conviction to my Heart; especially such as these; *Every Mouth must be stopped,*

and all the World (even they that have not the written Law) *become guilty before God. No Man can redeem his brother, nor give unto God a Ransom for him. He that believeth on Jesus Christ shall be saved; and he that believeth not, shall be damned.* Now it was that my Heart failed within me! I groaned in Spirit! I cried, I am undone! My Sins are gone over my Head. The Remembrance of them is grievous, and the Burden of them is intolerable.

When all was ended, I strove with all my Might to conceal the Confusion of my Mind from those happier Souls I was surrounded with; but some of them perceived my Concern; and one said to me, with Tears in his Eyes, “The Saviour of Sinners have Mercy on thee, and reveal himself to thy Soul!” But, O, my Load was great! I returned with a heavy Heart. When I entered my Closet, I threw myself prostrate on the Ground, and attempted to pray. But it was long before I could speak a Word. At length, under some Heart-meltings, and in broken Accents, I cried out: “O Lord GOD, the Maker of all Things, and the Governor of the World, unto thee all Power belongs; thou canst kill, and make alive. Mercifully behold a poor, miserable Sinner, ruined and undone. I confess, O GOD, that I have justly deserved eternal Death; and it is alone of thy sparing Hand that I am yet alive. Thou canst in a Moment crush me to Death, and in just Vengeance destroy me forever. But O my GOD, glorify thyself in the Salvation even of such a Wretch as I am! O be merciful to me a Sinner! For the Sake of all thy Goodness, and all that whereby thou makest it known! Turn me, even *me*, and save me for ever and ever!” After some Time I rose from the Ground; but in great Distraction of Mind. Sometimes I had Thoughts of going in search of the Preacher, in hopes of finding Relief from him; but this seemed impracticable, it being now late in the Evening; and besides I knew not where to seek him: Then I condemned myself for not having enquired where he lived; and looked upon this Neglect as a bad Omen. It now darted

into my Mind, whether or no the Minister I had heard was really a Man of like Passions with others, or rather an Angel sent from GOD. In the Multitude of my Thoughts within me, I cast my Eye upon my quite neglected *Bible*; which I had before carelessly thrown aside, finding it so little regarded by the Generality of those called Christians. I read, and pondered, and read on; but, alas! every Line seemed to militate against me; and instead of ministering Relief, to encrease my Torment. I closed the Book, and paused, then opened it again, and found these Words, *The Sorrows of Death compassed me, and the Pains of Hell gat hold upon me: I found Trouble and Sorrow. Then called I upon the Name of the Lord; O Lord, I beseech thee, deliver my Soul.* This Scripture, for a Moment, conveyed some Light and Comfort to me in my Distress: I saw my Case was not as I supposed, peculiar to myself. I said, Surely this Man has been in like Trouble of Soul, and has felt the Pains of Hell too; and yet the Lord graciously delivered him to of all.

But this small Glimmering of Light was soon extinguished: All that Night I had no Rest. My Slumberings were attended with astonishing Terror: Death, Judgment, and eternal Destruction was all I could see, and all I could hear; and a terrible Sound it was. The Preacher's Text was continually ringing in my Ears, *Except a Man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven.* For some Time I confined myself to my Room; hardly took so much Sustenance as was sufficient to preserve me alive. The Comforts of this Life were now blasted. I lay under sharp Convictions. *The Arrows of the Almighty struck fast in me; they drank up my Spirits, whilst his Hand pressed me sore:* Then cried I, *What must I do to be saved?* At other Times I was more easy; then again under amazing Horror and Dread, because I was so thoughtless and stupid while my Case was so dreadful: I was often under violent Temptations to destroy myself, and so put an End to a wretch Life; for I thought surely the longer I

live, the more Sin I commit; consequently my Punishment shall be greater in the End. Then was I without Hope of Deliverance, and concluded, the sooner I put an End to my Misery the better. Now and then I had a small transient Gleam of Light darting into my Soul, which, for the Time it lasted, gave me some Hope of Deliverance; at least a Peradventure, that the Lord might have Mercy on so vile a Wretch as me.

At this Season I was led to discover more clearly the secret Workings of Corruption in my Heart. The Spirit of GOD convinced me, that my Understanding was by Nature blind and ignorant, *'till God, who caused the Light to shine out of Darkness, shines into the Heart, to give the Knowledge of his Glory, in the Face of Jesus Christ.* I saw more than ever, that my Will was stubborn and perverse, even to an Enmity against the Law of GOD: Also that my Affections were all disorderly, impure, sensual, and devilish: And what was even beyond this, that I could not love the Lord Jesus Christ, who had done and suffered so much on my Account. I felt that all my Designs wholly terminated in myself. I was spiritually and rationally convinced, that for me to deny natural, moral, and religious *Self*, and come to Christ as a poor, miserable, wretched, empty Creature, to live upon his Righteousness forever, as my Bible directed me, is as supernatural and wonderful as to see the Mountains and Hills removed, and cast into the Depth of the Sea. I now began to feel more than ever what I had before read in the Bible, but could not comprehend—that Salvation was entirely of *Grace*. That nothing less than sovereign Grace could save my Soul from the Guilt and Dominion of Sin, and make me a Partaker of the glorious Privileges of the Sons of GOD.

During this Confinement, my courteous Friend, who had before taken such Pains to instruct me in the Manners and language of the Country, made me a Visit. He was greatly surprized to see my

Countenance so fallen, and kindly enquired into the Cause. As he was called a *Teacher in Israel*, and one that I had often heard animadvert warmly on the bad Behaviour of the Generality of his Brethren; I simply related the Trouble I was in, and what I apprehended was the Cause of it; and what I more than feared must be the fatal Consequence. He looked earnestly at me, and with Concern in his Countenance replied, “I pity your Condition from my Heart. Your Disorder is a religious Distraction of Mind, which we call *Enthusiasm*, we have a great deal of this in England. The Person you heard preach, and who was the Cause of your Trouble, is a *grand Deceiver*; one, whose constant Employment is to *turn the World upside down!* Not being content with the happy established Form of Religion, he has got some novel wild Chimeras in his Head; and being fired with the irrational Idea of his own Brain, he frightens his poor deluded Followers out of their Senses: Most of whom are poor illiterate Persons, the *very Filth and Off-scouring of the World*. My advice to you, Sir,” said he, “is never to go near them more by any Means. Attend the regular stated Service of our excellent Church: Go abroad into chearful Company; shake off that corrosive Melancholy, and resume your wonted Sprightliness. God is a merciful Being, and does not require so much Strictness at our Hands. You may use the Pleasures of this Life, love the World, and go to Heaven too.” I asked him the Meaning of those Words, *Except a Man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God*. He said, “You must be baptized, and lead a moral, sober Life; but not think to receive the Holy Spirit.” Now I saw what he was; and knew that if he was *right* the Word of God was *wrong*; if the Word of God was *Truth*, he must be in *Error* and *Delusion*. He left me grievously oppressed and heavy laden with Sin. I was under the clearest Conviction, both from what the Preacher declared, and what I read in the Bible, that no Righteousness could serve to justify my Person at the Tribunal of a just and holy God, but

that which is altogether perfect, fully commensurate to the utmost Demands of the moral Law. This I more than saw was altogether impossible for me to perform. In fine, I found my Acquaintance was a Physician of no value, altogether a Stranger to my Disorder, and quite unacquainted with the only sovereign Remedy for perishing Souls: Just then came into my Mind some Passages I had read in my Bible of false Prophets, who cry, *Peace, Peace, when there is no Peace*. And the blessed Author of Christianity's Words, *Beware of false Prophets, who are only blind Leaders of the Blind*; I was enabled to take these Hints, and to beware of falling into the Ditch with him.

I longed exceedingly for the Return of the next Lord's Day; resolved to go (notwithstanding all the Doctor said) to the same Place, where God had so wonderfully wrought upon my Soul before. The blessed Morning being come, I worshipped the God of Heaven in fervent Prayer, committed my Body, Soul and Concerns to him, and begged that this Day might be a Feast of Marrow and fat Things to my Soul; and soon hastened to the Assembly of Saints. And as they began their Worship sooner than most others, I was again a little too late. The same Minister was there, and my very Heart leaped at the Sound of his Voice.

He was just taking these Soul-reviving Words for the Subject of his Discourse—*Come unto me all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you Rest*. HE told us, that this was the Voice of our Lord Jesus Christ himself, inviting weary, hungry, perishing Souls, to a Feast of Mercy and Grace. And in order to prevail upon his Hearers to accept the Invitation, he shewed, 1.

That the Burden of Sin is a heavy Burden. 2. That the Spirit of God always makes us feel that Burden, and groan to be delivered, before we find Rest. 3. That Jesus Christ only can give Rest to the weary Soul. 4. That he will do it to all that come unto him: Namely,

to all that believe. He insisted upon all these Points, and was large in the Inference he drew from them. Then concluded in Prayer and Praise.

During the whole Time, the most devout Affections were to be discerned from the whole Assembly. As for me, I found that every Word was exactly levelled at my Heart. He could not have spoke more pertinently to my Case, if I had told him all the Exercises of my distracted Mind. I sometimes thought he had surely been informed of all my Grievs, and hence he directed his Discourse *only to me*. He opened all my Disease, probed the Wound to the Bottom; and it was as though I was shaken over the Mouth of Hell. Then he applied the precious *Balm of Gilead*, he preached Jesus Christ in all his Offices, especially as the glorious Physician, who heals the wounded Conscience, for his own Name-Sake. In the Application of the whole, he shewed the many Hindrances which lie in the Way; and the perplexing Doubts and slavish Fears which possess the burdened Conscience at its first coming to Christ; and withal, how able and willing he is to receive and give them Rest. My Soul failed within me. My Spirit sunk under the Weight of a comfortable Hope, that Jesus would have Mercy on *me*, even *me!*

Just as he drew to a Conclusion, he raised his Voice, and with great Earnestness quoted these Words; *I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy Transgressions, for mine own Sake, and will not remember thy Sins, saith the Lord*. The blessed Spirit applied them home to my Soul; and wrote them, by the Finger of GOD, upon the Table of my Heart; in a Moment, in the Twinkling of an Eye, the Scales fell from my Eyes! I beheld *Jesus of Nazareth* by the Eye of Faith, as evidently crucified before me— bearing my Sins in his own Body on the accursed Tree. The Prison-doors were thrown open, my Soul, that was before bound in Misery and Iron, and locked up in the Prison of Unbelief, was now set at Liberty. GOD helped me to come as a poor,

perishing, undone Sinner, and cast my Soul upon Jesus Christ! O he graciously received me; and according to the multitude of his Mercies, and the Faithfulness of his Promise, he *blotted out all my Sins!* I received Christ into my Heart, *the Hope of Glory:* And he put a new Song in my Mouth, even Praises unto GOD for his *discriminating Grace!* --He hath lov'd me, I cry'd, He hat liv'd and hath dy'd To redeem such a Rebel as me!

O my dear *Hayton*, I cannot describe the thousandth Part of that Transport of Joy, that substantial Bliss I then felt; and, blessed be GOD, *even now*, while I am writing, I yet feel it in my Soul; I was in a Moment translated from Darkness to Light; from Sickness to Health; from Pain to Ease; from Misery to Happiness; from Bondage to Liberty; from Death to Life: Yea, I may truly say, from Hell to Heaven!

Had I but one Wish left, it should be, that my dear Friend, even whilst he reads the Language of my happy Soul, *might taste and see how good and gracious the Lord is!* Might himself feel the Sweetness, Life and Power of Christ!

Well, my Soul is concerned for, and, I trust, I shall always remember *thee*, my *Hayton!* and when I bow before the Throne of Jesus, O let my Prayers come up before him, and be heard for you.

Now I begun to live. From this Moment commenced my *spiritual* and *eternal* Life, *which is hid with Christ in God.* Jesus Christ is become to me a Head of Influence, and I daily *receive out of his Fulness Grace for Grace.* The whole Body of Sin is condemned in the Flesh, and has already received its mortal Wound. Jesus gave me to drink of the living Water, and it flows, and ever will flow unto eternal Life. The Sun of Righteousness shines with a new Light into my *Understanding*, sets a new Byass to my *Will*, and all the *Passions* and *Affections* of my Soul run in a *new Channel.* In a Word, the Holy Ghost has wrought a real, thorough Change in my Heart; all old

Things are become NEW: For being now become dead to the Law, and married to Christ, I am enabled to bring *forth Fruits unto God*. But, O! when I view my Interest in CHRIST, and consider what an inexhaustible Fund of *Grace, Strength, and Righteousness*, is lodged for me in the Redeemer's Hands; this proves the sweetest and most Powerful Engagement to all evangelical Obedience, and the only Spring of all true Consolation.

May the dear IMMANUEL draw thy Heart into Union with his glorious Person, which is eternal Life! Then, and not till then, you shall enjoy a Kingdom of Heaven in your own Breast, a very Paradise in your Soul, unspeakably better than what the *Alchoran* deludes us with a false Expectation of. If it be so, my dear *Hayton*, as it really is, that all real Christian are thus happy in a Word of Woe, and under the Incumbrances of Flesh and Blood, how transcendantly glorious, how unspeakably happy must they be, when these Impediments are removed? When the Soul becomes at Liberty to range the whole Paradise of GOD; and taste the Joys of infinite Delights! And thus shall it be done unto every Man, whom Jesus delights to honour.

I must farther relate to you, That when I had the Happiness of being acquainted with the *Evangelist* that first brought the glad Tidings to my Ears, and by whose Ministry the Grace of God reached my Heart, I related my Experience to him, and a few of his intimate Friends. O how did they weep for Joy over me! They strengthened my Faith in Christ, and gave Glory to GOD, who had added another lost Sinner to his militant Church.

These knew how to sympathize with me, when I lay under the *Wrath of God*, the Curses of the *Law*, and the *Terrors of Conscience*; for, by comparing *Notes*, our Experiences exactly tallied, as *Face answereth Face in a Glass*.

But here, give me leave to make a few Observations of another Kind.

The Christian Religion is, I presume, not only to be demonstrated by the Spirit's secret Operations in the Soul, but it may be proved from rational Grounds, to be a System altogether agreeable to *right Reason*, and the moral *Fitness of Things*. For what so fit *for*, and suitable *to* a lost ungodly, helpless Sinner, as an all-sufficient SAVIOUR! What so suitable to the Weary, as Rest; to the Hungry, as Bread; to the Thirsty, as Water; to the Naked, as a Garment; to the Blind, as Sight, etc. All these, and many more striking Metaphors, has the Holy Spirit most elegantly borrowed from the Creature, to shew how reasonable a Thing it is that we should believe on the LORD JESUS CHRIST unto eternal Life. No Man can be forced to believe against his Reason, or love against his Will, or desire against his Inclination. Therefore the Spirit of GOD first enlightens the Understanding that it may *discern*; the *Will* and *Affections* then naturally flow after. The Soul is first drawn to Jesus as if it would not come; and then it comes as if it were not drawn. *He drew me with the Cords of Love, as with the Bands of a Man. And this is a faithful Saying, and worthy of all Acceptation* (even of our enlightened Age!) *That Christ Jesus came into the World to save Sinners.*

And I found that the greatest Part of those, whom I have been speaking of, could each say for himself, from the real Experience of the Heart, *Jesus Christ hath loved me, and given himself for me.* And the whole of their Deportment and Conversation in the World, shews them to be Persons full of genuine Humility, unaffected Seriousness, being mild and gentle; free from all selfish Design; wholly devoted to Jesus Christ, and earnestly seeking the Good of their Fellow-Creatures; and yet (wonderful to relate!) these People are contemned by almost all Professors, both Teachers and Hearers.

Yea, they are persecuted, and loaded with all the Obloquy that inveterate Malice can suggest; and all the Opposition that can be contrived to prevent the Spreading of the glorious Gospel, and the Increase of the genuine Followers of the exalted Redeemer. Nay, those that disagree in all other religious Points, yet are unanimous in this: That they will root out, if possible, their Memorial from the Face of the Earth.

But notwithstanding all the Opposition they meet with, the Meekness, Patience, and Perseverance of these Christians, both Ministers and People (for I understand there are many more of the same Spirit) surmounts all Difficulties; and their Numbers daily increase. And why not? Seeing the wonderful Conversions that are among them, are surely enough to engage the greatest Sceptic in Religion, to believe that the might Power of GOD is with them! O that our Countrymen would but admit this true Gospel of Christ amongst them! Surely if it were preached by some of these despised Messengers of the living GOD, they would, I doubt not, thro' *divine Grace*, embrace the Truth as it is in Jesus; and be a Reproach to this Nation, who resist the Calls of GOD: And though they are called by his Name, will not have this Man, this God-Man Christ Jesus, to reign over them.

Oh! how fatally successful has the Enemy of Mankind been, by engaging in his Interest that very Power, which, by primitive Gospel-Institution, was ordained as a Barrier between the People and his subtle Inventions! Surely he has gained his Point, by bribing the *Watchmen* with Riches, Power, and Pleasure; so that while they riot in luxurious Ease, the poor Souls, under their mistaken Care, fall an easy, willing Sacrifice to his rapacious Power. Woe, woe to the *Watchmen*, and woe to the *People!* For the Carelessness of *those* will not extenuate the Guilt of *these*. *If the Blind lead the Blind, both shall*

fall in the Ditch together. But every Soul shall be required at the Watchman's Hand.

It appears to me, that this *corrupt Ministry* is a greater Enemy to their Nation than the most formidable Powers about them; for *those*, at the worst, can but annoy them in their temporal Interest, but *these* wound them deeply in temporal and eternal at the same Time; inasmuch as if we practiced the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and lived by the Faith of the Son of GOD, it could not fail of engaging the Arm of Omnipotence in the Defence of both: Then, having our Anchor within the Veil, we might justly triumph with those worthy Heroes of old, who, through *Faith, subdued Kingdoms, wrought Righteousness, obtained Promises, stopped the Mouths of Lions, quenched the Violence of Fire, escaped the Edge of the Sword; out of Weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in Fight, and turned to Flight the Armies of the Aliens.* Whereas, on the contrary, a dissolute, debauched, prophane Life, a Land full of infidelity, must cause the divine Majesty of Heaven to rise up against them.

I should swell my Letter to too great a Length, should I pursue my Inclination on this Subject: But what I have said, I hope, through the Assistance of Divine Grace, will excite your Desires and Diligence to become acquainted, *experimentally acquainted*, with the Doctrines of the Gospel.

Oh, *Hayton!* did you but know the Joy of believing in JESUS CHRIST, and the Heaven I enjoy in Communion with him, it would soon wean you from your superstitious and fruitless Pilgrimages to *Mecca* and *Arafata* in Honour of a grand Imposter; and engage you to come and *see the Salvation of God.*

If it please the REDEEMER to breathe on these Lines, this humble Attempt to inform your Judgment, and awaken your Conscience, so that they are brought with Conviction to your Heart, I shall (if the Lord please) send you another Letter, to give you a brief Account of

the Doctrines, Practice, and Discipline; the Officers, Members, Glory and Symetry of a Church of CHRIST, according to the Bible-Plan. Farewel, my dear Friend. May the contemned *Nazarene* bring thee to a Knowledge of thyself, and a Knowledge of his pardoning Love, which is eternal Life!

Then you will not envy our *great Sultan* his Glory, but be happy, unspeakably happy, in your own Breast.

As is Your *joyful, Self-exiled Friend, etc.* GAIFER.

* * * * *

A FAREWELL HYMN,

(*To be Sung at the Designation of the Baptist Missionaries, Dec. 1, 1803.*) From Indian plains, on Albion's shore See gold, and gems, and fragrance smile; But Britain, in a richer store, Returns it from our native Isle.

Lo! with the Gospel's glorious prize, With Truths irradiant as the sun, In vain the sparkling treasure views; We send the pearl of price unknown.

The nations feel the pangs of war, And wrath with boundless tumult reigns; And Gallic fury raves from far, And British heroes fill the plains: But Zion's gentler hosts engage, Impatient for a nobler fight, Through every land the war to wage, And put confederate worlds to flight.

Yes, Hell shall mourn the eternal loss, And earth with captive souls abound; Before the soldiers of the Cross, With unensanguined laurels crown'd.

For this the embosom'd prize we spare, Dear to the Churches' glowing heart; For this with unreluctant tear, We bid our well-belov'd depart. Go, then, dear missionary train, Go, bless the distant Eastern shore; Ye shall not hear our lips complain, That we behold your forms no more.

Great God of Nature! to whose sight, Unfathomed Ocean open lies!

Bid every blessing on them light, In prosperous gales, and peaceful skies.

Ah! let them not to death be hurl'd, But guide them o'er the buoyant wave, Save them thyself—and teach the world By them, thy power, thy will to save. * *

II.

Kindred, and friends, and native lands How shall we say farewell?

How, when our swelling sails expand, How will our bosoms swell! Yes, nature, all thy soft delights, And tender ties we know; But love more strong than death, unites To him that bids us go.

Thus, when our every passion mov'd, The gushing tear-drop starts; The cause of JESUS, more belov'd, Shall glow within our hearts.

The sighs we breathe for precious souls, Where he is yet unknown; Might waft us to the distant poles, Or to the burning zone.

With the warm wish our bosoms swell, Our glowing powers expand; Farewell! then we can say, farewell! Our friends, our native land! * *

III.

Sovereign of worlds! display thy pow'r, Be this thy Zion's favour'd hour; Bid the bright Morning Star arise, And point the nations to the skies. II.

Set up thy Throne where Satan reigns, On Afric's shores—on India's plains; On wilds and continents unknown— And be the universe thine own. III.

Speak—and the world shall hear thy voice, Speak—and the desarts shall rejoice!

Scatter the shades of moral night!

Let worthless idols flee the light!

IV.

Trusting in him—dear Brethren, rear, The Gospel Standard void of fear: Go seek with joy your destin'd shore, To view your native land no more.

V.

Yes—Christian Heroes! —go—proclaim Salvation thro' IMMANUEL's name; To India's clime the tidings bear, And plant the Rose of Sharon there.

VI.

He'll shield you with a wall of fire!
With flaming zeal your breasts inspire!
Bid raging winds their fury cease, And hush the tempests into
peace.

VII.

And when our labours all are o'er, Then we shall meet to part no more; Meet with the blood-bough throng to fall, And crown our Jesus, Lord of All! B.H.D

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