
A

WORD in SEASON:

OR,

ADVICE

TO AN

ENGLISHMAN.

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 OR,
 ADVICE to an *Englishman*.

1. **D**O you ever *think*? Do you ever *consider*? If not, 'tis high time you should. *Think* a little, before it is too late. *Consider* what a State you are in. And not you alone, but our *whole Nation*. We would have War. And we have it. And what is the Fruit? Our Armies broken in Pieces; And 'Thousands of our Men either kill'd on the Spot or made Prisoners in one Day. Nor is this all. We have now War at our own Doors: Our own Countrymen turning their Swords against their Brethren. And have any hitherto been able to stand before them? Have they not already seized upon one whole Kingdom? Friend, either *think* now, or sleep on and take your Rest, till you drop into the Pit where you will sleep no more!

2. *Think*, what is likely to follow, if an Army of *French* also, should blow the Trumpet in our Land? What Defolation may we not then expect? What a wide-spread *Field of Blood*? And what can the End
 of



of these Things be ? If they prevail, what but *Popery* and *Slavery* ? Do you know what the Spirit of *Popery* is ? Did you never hear of that Queen *Mary's* Reign ? And of the Holy Men who were then burnt alive by the *Papists*, because they did not dare to do as they did ? To worship Angels and Saints ; to pray to the Virgin *Mary* ; to bow down to Images, and the like. If we had a King of this Spirit, whose Life would be safe ? At least, what honest Man's ? A Knave indeed might turn with the Times. But what a dreadful Thing would this be to a Man of Conscience ? “ Either turn, or burn. Either go “ into that Fire : Or into the Fire that *never shall* “ *be quenched.*”

3. And can you dream that your *Property* would be any safer than your *Conscience* ? Nay, how should that be ? Nothing is plainer than that the Pretender cannot be King of *England*, unless it be by Conquest. But every Conqueror may do what he will. The Laws of the Land are no Laws to Him. And who can doubt, but one who should conquer *England* by the Assistance of *France*, would copy after the *French* Rules of Government ?

4. How dreadful then is the Condition wherein we stand ? On the very Brink of utter Destruction ! But why are we thus ? I am afraid the Answer is too plain, to every considerate Man. Because of our Sins ; because we have well-nigh *fill'd up the Measure of our Iniquities*. For, what Wickedness is there under Heaven, which is not found among us at this Day ? Not to insist on the Sabbath-breaking in every Corner of our Land, the Thefts, Cheating, Fraud, Extortion ; the Injustice, Violence, Oppression ; the Lying and Dissimulation ; the Robberies, Sodomies and Murders (which, with a thousand unnamed Villanies are common to us and our Neighbour *Christians* of *Holland*, *France* and *Germany*;) consider over and above, what a plentiful Harvest we have of Wickedness almost peculiar to ourselves ? For who

can vie with us, in the Direction of Courts of *Justice*? In the Management of *Public Charities*? Or, in the accomplished, barefaced *Wickedness*, which so abounds in our *Prisons*, and *Fleets* and *Armies*? Who in *Europe* can compare with the Sloth, Laziness, Luxury and Effeminacy of the *English Gentry*? Or with the Drunkenness, and stupid, senseless Cursing and Swearing, which are daily seen and heard in our *Streets*: One great Inlet, no doubt, to that Flood of Perjury, which so increases among us Day by Day: The like whereunto is not to be found, in any other Part of the habitable Earth.

6. Add to all these (what is indeed the Source as well as Completion of all) That open and profess'd *DEISM* and Rejection of the Gospel, that publick avowed Apostasy from the Christian Faith, which reigns among the Rich and Great, and hath spread from them to all Ranks and Orders of Men (the Vulgar themselves not excepted) and made us a People fitted for the *Destroyer of the Gentiles*.

6. Because of these Sins is this Evil come upon us. For (whether you are aware of it, or no) there is a *GOD*: A *GOD*, who tho' he sits upon the Circle of the Heavens, sees and knows all that is done upon Earth. And this *GOD* is Holy; He does not love Sin: He is Just, rendering to all their Due. And He is Strong; there is none able to withstand Him: He hath all Power in Heaven and in Earth. He is patient indeed and suffers long; but he will at last repay the Wicked to his Face. He often does so in this World; especially, when a whole Nation is openly and insolently wicked. Then doth *GOD arise and maintain his own Cause*; then doth he terribly shew both his Justice and Power: That if these will not repent, yet others may fear, and flee from the Wrath to come.

7. There hath been among them that feared *GOD*, a general Expectation for many Years, that the time was coming, when *GOD* would thus arise, to be avenged

venged of this sinful Nation. At length the Time is come. The Patience of God, long provoked, gives Place to Justice. The Windows of Heaven begin to be opened, to rain down Judgments on the Earth. And yet, with what Tenderneſs does he proceed? In the Miſt of Wrath remembering Mercy. By how ſlow Degrees does his Vengeance move! Nor does his whole Diſpleaſure yet ariſe.

8. Brethren, Country-men, Engliſhmen, What ſhall we do? To day! while it is called to-day! Before the Seaſon of Mercy is quite expired, and our *Deſtruction cometh as a Whirlwind*? Which Way can we remove the Evils we feel? Which Way prevent thoſe we fear? Is there any better Way, than the making God our Friend? The ſecuring his Help againſt our Enemies? Other Helps are little worth. We ſee *Armies* may be deſtroyed, or even flee away from Old Men and Children. *Fleets* may be daſh'd to Pieces in an Hour, and ſunk in the Depth of the Sea. *Allies* may be treacherous, or ſlow, or fooliſh, or weak, or cowardly. But God is a Friend who cannot betray, and whom none can either bribe or terrify. And who is wiſe, or ſwift, or ſtrong like him? Therefore, whatever we do, let us make God our Friend. Let us with all Speed remove the Cauſe of his Anger. Let us caſt away our Sins. Then ſhall his Love have free Courſe, and he will ſend us Help, ſufficient Help againſt all our Enemies.

9. Come; will *You* begin? Will *You*, by the Grace of God, amend *One*, and that without Delay? Firſt then, *Owe* thoſe Sins which have long cried for Vengeance in the Ears of God. *Confess*, that we all (and you in particular) deſerve for our Inward and Outward *Abominations*, not only to be ſwept from the Face of the Earth, but to ſuffer the Vengeance of Eternal Fire. Never aim at *excusing* either yourſelf or others. Let your Mouth be ſtopt. Plead guilty before God. Above all, *owe* that *Impudence* of Wickedneſs, that utter *Careleſneſs*, that *Pert Stupidity*,

pidity, which is hardly to be found in any Part of the Earth, (at least, not in such a Degree) except in *England*. Do you not know what I mean? You was not long since praying to God, for “*Damnation upon your own Soul.*” One who has heard you, said, “*Is that right? Does not God hear? What if he takes you at your Word?*” You replied, with equal Impudence and Ignorance, “*What, are You a Methodist?*” What, if he is a *Turk*? Must thou therefore be a *Heathen*?—God humble thy brutish, devilish Spirit.

10. Lay thee in the Dust, for this and for all thy Sins. Let thy Laughter be turned into Heaviness; thy Joy into Mourning; thy senseless Jollity and Mirth, into Sorrow and Brokenness of Heart. This is no Time to eat and drink and rise up to play; but to afflict thy Soul before the Lord. Desire of God a deep piercing Sense of the enormous Sins of the Nation, and of thy own. Remember that great Example: How when the *King of Nineveh* was warned of the near-approaching Vengeance of God, he caused it to be proclaim'd, *Let none taste any Thing, let them not feed nor drink Water. But let them be covered with Sackcloth, and cry mightily to GOD; yea let them turn every one from his evil Way; who can tell, if GOD will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce Anger that we perish not* JONAH 3.

11. Let them *turn* every one from his evil Way. Cease to do Evil. Learn to do well. And see that this Reformation be *Universal*: For there is no serving God by Halves. Avoid *all* Evil, and do *all* Good unto *all* Men; else you only deceive your own Soul. See also, that it be from the *Heart*. Lay the Axe to the Root of the Tree. Cut up, by the Grace of God, Evil Desire, Pride, Anger, Unbelief. Let this be your continual Prayer to God, the Prayer of your Heart, (as well as Lips) “*LORD, I would believe: Help thou mine Unbelief! Give me the Faith*”

" Faith that worketh by Love. *The Life which I*
 " *now live, let me live by Faith in the Son of GOD.*
 " Let me *so* believe, that I may love thee, with all
 " my Heart and Mind, and Soul and Strength! And
 " that I may love every Child of Man, even as
 " thou hast loved us! Let me daily add to my Faith,
 " Courage, Knowledge, Temperance, Patience, Bro-
 " therly Kindness, Charity: That so an Entrance
 " may be ministred to me abundantly, into the ever-
 " lasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus
 " Christ!"

1. **R**egard, Thou righteous God and true,
 Regard thy weeping People's Prayer,
 Before the Sword our Land go thro',
 Before thy latest Plague we bear;
 Let all to Thee their Smiter turn,
 Let all beneath thine Anger mourn.
2. The Sword which first bereav'd abroad
 We now within our Borders see,
 We see, but slight thy Nearer Rod,
 So oft so kindly warn'd by Thee;
 We still thy Warning Love despise,
 And dare thine utmost Wrath to rise
3. Yet for the Faithful Remnant's sake,
 Their utmost Wrath a while defer,
 If haply we at last may wake,
 And trembling at Destruction near
 The Cause of all our Evils own,
 And leave the Sins for which we groan.
4. Or if the Wicked will not mourn,
 And 'scape the long-suspended Blow,
 Yet shall it to thy Glory turn,
 Yet shall they all thy Patience know.
 Thy slighted Love and Mercy clear,
 And vindicate thy Justice here.

For

For His Majesty King *GEORGE*

1. **I**mmortal King of Kings,
 Whose Favour or whose Frown,
 Monarchs and States to Honour brings,
 Or turns them upside down ;
 To Thee in Danger's Hour
 We for our Sovereign cry,
 Protect Him by Thy gracious Power,
 And set Him up on high.
2. Not by a mighty Host
 Can he delivered be,
 Let others in their Numbers trust,
 We look, O Lord, to Thee :
 Help to thy Servant send,
 And strengthen from above,
 And still thy Minister defend
 By Thine Almighty Love.
3. The Spirit of thy Grace
 The Heavenly Unction shed,
 And Hosts of Guardian Angels place
 Around his Sacred Head ;
 Confound whoe'er oppose,
 Or force them to retire ;
 Be Thou a Tower against his Foes,
 Be Thou a Wall of Fire.
4. O bring Him out of all
 His *sanctify'd* Distress,
 And by his Name thy Servant call,
 And fill Him with Thy Peace ;
 Shew Him, Almighty LORD,
 That Thou *His* Saviour art,
 And speak the Soul-converting Word,
My Son, give Me Thy Heart.

F I N I S.

