

corrupted by their subserviency to their employers. Some of them are members of the vigilance committees, who form an Inquisition, differing from that of Rome only in that it persecutes abolitionists instead of heretics, and that its proceedings are illegal, and consequently that it employs mobs for its instruments instead of officials. All of them have prostituted their knowledge, and the respect due to their functions by indiscriminate defence not only of slavery, but of the very laws which, while they last, render slavery irremediable."

"That Providence will, in its own way, and in its own time, work out a cure, we believe; because we believe improvement, progressive, though always slow and often interrupted, to be among the laws by which this earth is governed. But we do not venture to hope that we, or our sons, or our grandsons, will see American slavery extirpated from the earth."

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OLIVER CROMWELL'S NATIONAL FAST.

"The common and notorious sins so boldly and impenitently practised amongst us, notwithstanding all our deliverances and mercies, together with the present rod of an exceeding and universal drought, which hath lain upon us for some years, and still continues and increases upon us, threatening famine and mortality, are no less than the voice of God, calling aloud in our ears to fasting, and mourning, and great abasement of soul before Him.

"And although the general end and intendment of inviting to a day of fast be, that all, of every condition and quality whatever, do try and examine their heart and way more especially according to their own light, and in the use of such helps and means as the Lord in his providence shall afford to each one, before and upon the said day of meeting; yet finding some thoughts set seriously upon our heart, we judged it not amiss to recommend the same to Christian consideration, not to impose them upon any, or to confine any within the compass thereof; but leaving every man free to the grace of God, and to the work of his Spirit, who worketh all things in the hearts of the sons of men, according to the counsel and good pleasure of His own will.

"It cannot be denied but that God hath vouchsafed to appear much in working the deliverance of this nation from their bondage and thralldom, both spiritual and civil, and procuring for them a just liberty by his own people.

"Do we now walk worthy of our high calling, in humbleness and lowliness of mind, holding forth those virtues of Christ in time of peace, which were our strength, by the efficacy of which all our great things were accomplished in time of war?

"Have we a heart prepared as willingly to communicate the said just freedom and liberty to one another, as we were industrious to get it?

"Do we thankfully acknowledge our mercy in the liberty of worshiping God in holiness and righteousness without fear, being delivered out of the hands of our enemies?

"Is brotherly love, and a healing spirit, of that force and value amongst us that it ought?

"Do we own one another more for the grace of God, and for the spiritual regeneration, and for the image of *Christ* in each other, or for our agreement with each other in this or that form or opinion?

"Do we first search for the kingdom of *Christ* within us before we seek one without us? Or, do we listen to them that say concerning the coming of *Christ*, *L. here, and to there*?

"Do we not more contend for saints having rule in the world than over their own hearts?

"Are there not too many amongst us that cry up the Spirit, with a neglect of love, joy, peace, meekness, patience, goodness, temperance, long-suffering, forbearance, brotherly-kindness and charity, which are the fruits of the Spirit?

"How do we carry ourselves, not only to the Churches of God, and the saints, but towards them that are without?

"Do not some of us affirm ourselves to be the only true ministry, and true Churches of *Christ*, and ourselves only to have the ordinances in purity, excluding our brethren, though of equal gifts, and having as large a seal of their ministry,