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WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN.

An event that can impress the great lessons of fidelity to conscience, and self-sacrifice for principle, may well be commemorated. With this in view, the services of the 24th of August, in many Congregational pulpits, were aimed to perpetuate the memory of the Nonconformists of 1662, who exhibit to the world the sublime spectacle of a noble army of confessors, who, for Christ's sake, took joyfully the spoiling of their goods. A fitting opportunity was then afforded of asserting important principles connected with the Kingdom of Christ. We trust that the truth was spoken in love. Already these utterances are of the past; that we, however, may aid in giving a prolonged existence to some of the truths rendered emphatic by the glorious example of suffering witnesses, we refer to the grand assertion of liberty of conscience, —and that in defiance of the opposition of men, made by the Apostle Peter, when in the face of the Jewish Council he said “we ought to obey God rather than men.” A bold avowal which shows—

That what we are convinced is true in religion we are bound honestly to carry out. The realm of conscience is sacred. That voice ought neither to be hushed, nor gagged. It is possible for it to be misdirected and perverted; but to follow out the convictions of our inmost soul is noble and heroic. The Word of God as supreme law is to be heard—and heard to be obeyed. The Nonconformists illustrate this great truth. Scripture, spirituality, freedom, were leading ideas with these great and good men. The broad view of obligation to obey God in all matters where they had light, was undoubted. Hear one of them when he says: “It is not, O my soul, a light matter thou art now employed in. It is not thy maintenance, family, wife or children, that are the main things considerable in this enquiry. Forget these till thou art come to the resolution in the main business. It is, O my soul, the glory of God, the credit and advantage of religion, the good of that poor flock committed to thy keeping by the Holy Ghost, thy ministry, thy conscience, thy salvation, and the salvation of others, that must cast the scale, and determine thy resolution.” Another says: “My Lord, I am by Act of Parliament *ipso facto* avoided as dead, if within the time I do not this. I am at thy footstool, I may not do evil that good may come. I may not do this great sin against God and the dictates of my conscience. I therefore surrender myself, my soul, my minis-