

“He was design’d of all mankind
To be a public head,
A common roof where all should shoot,
And stood in all their stead.
He stood and fell, did ill or well,
Not for himself alone,
But for you all, who now his fall,
And trespass would disown.

“If he had stood, then all his brood
Had been established
In God’s true love, never to move,
Nor once awry to tread;
Then all his race, my Father’s grace,
Should have enjoy’d forever,
And wicked sprites by subtle slights
Could them have harmed never.

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“You sinners are, and such a share
As sinners may expect,
*Such you shall have ; for I do save
None but my own elect.*
Yet to compare your sin with their
Who lived a longer time,
I do confess yours is much less,
Though every sin ’s a crime.

“A crime it is, *therefore in bliss
You may not hope to dwell ;*
But unto you I shall allow
The easiest room in hell.
The glorious King thus answering,
They cease and plead no longer:
Their consciences must needs confess
His reasons are the stronger.

“Thus all men’s pleas the Judge with ease,
Doth answer and confute,
Until that all, both great and small,
Are silenced and mute.
Vain hopes are cropt, all mouths are stopt,
Sinners have nought to say,
But that ’t is just, and equal most
They should be DAMN’D FOR AY.”

What Wigglesworth thought of the “easiest room in hell,” may be gathered from the following stanza :—

“But who can tell the plagues of Hell,
And torments exquisite?
Who can relate their dismal state,
And terrors infinite?
Who fare the best, and feel the least,
Yet feel that punishment,
Whereb’ to nought they should be brought
If God did not prevent.”

Wigglesworth, Day of Doom, sixth edition, 1715.