

## ADDRESS

*To the people comprising the several congregations  
under the superintendence of the Presbytery of  
Kingston.*

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

The Presbytery of Kingston wishing grace, mercy and peace to be continued and multiplied unto you all, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, desire to remind you, that many years ago, the fathers of this country stripped, during a war of revolution, of their all, in deep poverty, without the implements of husbandry and the necessities of life, pitched their tents in an unbroken wilderness; but the gracious Preserver of men supported them under their privations, supplied their wants, and delivered them from many evils. The red men of the forest penetrated far into the old American Colonies, carrying ruin and desolation in their train; but God bridled the ferocity of the native tribes in Canada, and disposed them to live in friendship with the inhabitants from the first settlement of the country. Little more than half a century has elapsed since that event and, considering the mighty obstacles to be surmounted, the growth of the population and the improvements made and in progress are, perhaps, without a parallel in history. We have, excepting a few years of contest, enjoyed unbroken peace. Friendship and brotherly love have pervaded all classes. Surely all these are striking instances of the favour of God vouchsafed both to the earlier and later settlers in this land. But, some years ago, a few persons, fond of change, arose, sowed the seeds of dissension, and have now grasped the sword to shed their brother's blood. Fire, pillage, and slaughter have, in every direction, marked their course. The sorrow of widows and fatherless children is the bitter fruit of their progress; and many families, once living in comfort, are now cast on the wide world, houseless and destitute. And, to aggravate the impending judgment, they are now employing all their art and ingenuity to induce the citizens of the neighbouring country to join their ranks and invade our land, demonstrating that they seek for revolution and the separation of these Colonies from Great Britain. Now, to develop the resources of the country, to remove existing abuses and improve our institutions, to do all this, so far as practicable, is amply encouraged by the genius of the British Constitution, and is in perfect accordance with the practice and sympathies of that free and generous nation to which we belong. But, instead of confining themselves to the prosecution of measures of salutary reform, in a constitutional, peaceable and christian-like manner, these deluded men are bent on the destruction of that form of government which we prefer, and that connection with England which, under God, we deem to be equally our privilege, honor and felicity

To trace and develop that extraordinary conspiracy which was formed for these revolutionary purposes, and its no less extraordinary detection, were unbefitting the objects of this address; but not to acknowledge the hand of God in those signal interpositions, by which this conspiracy has been defeated, were nothing less than a guilty contempt of the Ruler and Disposer of all.

Dear! Beloved Brethren, at this eventful crisis the eyes of your country are no doubt directed towards you, to see how you will discharge your duty to it and to your posterity; and the warm, instantaneous and wide-spreading response which has been already given to the public demands, is an encouraging pledge and security that you will not be a-wanting in your duty to *man*; but especially remember that the eye of God is looking down from heaven upon you to see in what manner you are to fulfil your obligations to *Him*.

The present calamity stands not alone, but is only one of many that have recently afflicted the Province. They must be wrapt up in worse than brutish inconsideration who have not been taking note, that the judgments of God have been for some time remarkably abroad in the world in general, and most strikingly manifest in this Province in particular.

A terrible pestilence has more than once visited us and cut down no inconsiderable number of our population. During the season just gone by, a scarcity in some parts of the land almost amounting to famine and a depression in temporal matters unexampled lay heavy upon the Province, and just as it was beginning to breathe from these calamities, war in its most hateful and unnatural form has risen up.

Consider then that such calamities as these come not by chance, and that afflictions spring not from the ground; that the government of God is conducted not upon arbitrary and capricious but upon fixed and unchangeable principles, and according to perfect righteousness. In His infinitely just and wise administration there always exists an inseparable connection between the judgments he sends upon a people and their sins, and can you be at any loss to trace that connection in respect to the judgments that have already afflicted and are still afflicting our land. Was there ever a people in existence who have received a larger or more munificent share of God's favors and blessings, than that nation of which we form a part; and can it, with the least colour of truth be affirmed, that our gratitude to God, or proper use of our privileges have kept any proportion with those expectations of return, God had the clearest right to entertain; and to say nothing of our derelictions of duty to God, in this respect, have not our more open and presumptuous sins as a people been too notorious to escape observation? Have not the Sabbaths which should be esteemed a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable and which ought to be consecrated to devotional purposes, with-