

AND let not the blessed God have Occasion to say of us, as of his People of old, *They sang his Praise, they soon forgot his Works. They forgot God their Saviour, which had done great Things in Egypt, wondrous Works in the Land of Ham, and terrible Things by the Red-Sea.*

LET us not think it enough, my Brethren, that we have laid aside our wordly Business, for a while, to appear in the Sanctuary of God, that we may speak and sing his Praises. The Lord hath *done great things* for us. The God of Jeshurun hath *rode upon the Heavens in our help, and in his Excellency on the Skie.* And this wonderful Appearance of God for us, should excite our Love, warm our Devotion, confirm our Faith, encourage our Hope, and inspire us with the firmest Resolutions of all holy Obedience to the Commandments of God.

LET us not think, that God will be pleased with meer external Offerings of Praise. *Nay, he hath shewed thee, O Man, what is good. And what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to do Justice, and to love Mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? Behold, to obey is better than Sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of Rams. To love the Lord our God with all our Heart, and with all our Understanding, and with all our Soul, and with all our Strength, and to love our Neighbour as ourselves, is more than whole Burnt-offerings and Sacrifices.* Let us, together with Offerings of Praise, order our Conversation aright: So shall we glorify God, and he will still *shew us his Salvation.*

AND let me here mind you of one Way wherein 'tis peculiarly fitting you should express your Gratitude on this joyful Occasion; and that is, *by shewing Mercy to the Poor.* 'Tis observable, when the Jews prevailed against their Enemies, and solemnized the Feast of Purim in Thanksgiving to God, they *gave Gifts to the Poor*, as we read, *Ester* 9. 22. And if, when we fast, and humble our selves before God, 'tis proper to *deal our Bread to the hungry, when we see the naked to cover them, and satisfy the afflicted Soul*; is it not reasonable also when we are called to *serve the Lord with gladness, and to come before his Presence with singing*, to be in the exercise of that Charity which shall refresh the Bowels of the poor and needy? Can there be a more fit Occasion than a Day of religious Gladness and Thanksgiving, to open our Hands in liberal Distributions, causing the Widow's Heart to sing

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