

express to you something of the sentiments of gratitude we feel to the Lord for his goodness to us on every account: that he has granted to us the privilege of meeting so many of our Brethren again in Association; that there existed such a degree of love and union among the Ministers and Messengers of the Churches; that, while there is great lamentation among some branches of the Zion of the Lord of Hosts in these regions of the earth, there is glorious news communicated from some others; particularly, in this town (Chester) the Lord has displayed his infinite love and goodness of late in comforting the heart of his dear servant, brother Dimock and his people, bringing home his backsliding ones; and a goodly number of precious souls, within a few months, have been brought into Immanuel's fold.

Brethren we realize, notwithstanding the goodness God to us as a Nation, that iniquity abounds and the love of many waxes cold.

Your privileges are great both civil and sacred. Much is said in the word of the Lord about subjection to the civil authority. "The powers that be are ordained of God."

Examine; your religious privileges are great. The constitution under which you live secures religious liberty to all British subjects. You have your Bibles and can worship God according to the dictates of your own consciences, and there is none to make you afraid; you choose your own Ministers of religion, and they are supported without compulsion. You build your own places of worship and have the means of doing so upon your own plans, without the interference of the sword of civil power. You live in a healthy climate; you witness nothing of the calamities of war; indeed you know but little of its effects.

Dear Brethren we think the Lord calls you to improve these privileges for the benefit of many. Our obligations to our God are great. He gives us fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. In short he gives us all things richly to enjoy. But the revelation of mercy he has made in the Gospel lays us under infinite obligations to be for the Lord; and by professing the name of the blessed Lord before the world we have laid ourselves under very great obligations to live devoted to him, and to improve our time and talents to his honour and glory. Our graces should be in lively exercise, and all our influence with men and our intercourse with society, should

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