

cile us to sin, which, in the eye of the world, brought so great shame, and pain, and amazement upon the Son of God, when he only became engaged, by a charitable substitution of himself in our place; and, therefore, we are assured, by the demonstration of sense and experience, it will bring death and all imaginable miseries as the just expresses of God's indignation and hatred: for to this we may apply the words of our Lord, in the prediction of the miseries of *Jerusalem*, *If thus be done in the green tree, what shall be done in the dry?* For it is certain Christ infinitely pleased his Father, even by becoming the person made guilty in estimate of law: and yet so great charity of our Lord, and the so great love and pleasure of his Father, exempted him not from suffering pains intollerable; and much less shall those *escape* who provoke and displease God, and *despise so great salvation*, which the holy Jesus hath wrought with the expence of blood and so precious a life.

In the midst of two thieves, three long hours the holy Jesus hung, clothed with pain, agony, and dishonour, all of them so eminent and vast, that he who could not but hope, whose soul was inhaled with divinity, and dwelt in the bosome of God, and in the cabinet of the mysterious Trinity, yet had a cloud of misery so thicke and blacke drawn before him, that he complained as if God had *forsaken* him; but this was *the pillar of cloud* which conducted Israel into Canaan: and as God behind the cloud supported the holy Jesus, and stood ready to receive him into the union of his glories. And we follow this cloud to our country, having Christ for guide: and though he trod the way, leaning upon the crosse, which, like the staffe of Egypt, pierced his hands, yet it is to us a comfort and support, pleasant to our spirits as the sweetest canes, strong as the pillars of the earth, and made apt for our use by having been born and made smooth by the hands of our elder brother.

In the midst of all his torments Jesus onely made one prayer of sorrow to represent his sad condition to his Father: but no accent of murmur, no syllable of anger against his enemies: instead of that he sent up a holy, charitable, and effective prayer for their forgiveness, and by that prayer obtained of God that within 55 days 8000 of his enemies were converted. So potent is the prayer of charity, that it prevails above the malice of men, turning the arts of Satan into the designs of God: and when malice occasions the prayer, the prayer becomes an antidote to malice. And