

Here is an extract from a letter written to Colonel Robert Hammond, who had charge of King Charles the First on the Isle of Wight, and who considered his charge a very great burden indeed :

"I find some trouble in your spirit; occasioned, first, not only by the continuance of your sad and heavy burden, as you call it, but also by the dissatisfaction you take at the way of some good men, whom you love with your heart, who through this principle: That it is lawful for a lesser part, if in the right, to force a numerical majority, etc. To the first: Call not your burden sad or heavy. *If your Father laid it upon you He intended neither.* (Italics mine.) He is the Father of light, from whom comes every good and perfect gift; who of His own will begot us, and bade us count it all joy when such things befall us, they being for the exercise of faith and patience *whereby in the end* (James i.) *we shall be made perfect.*" And further on in the same letter: "I say again, seek the Spirit to teach thee; which is the Spirit of knowledge and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, of wisdom, and of the fear of the Lord. *That Spirit will close thine eyes and stop thine ears, so that thou shalt not judge by them, but thou shalt judge for the meek of the earth, and thou shalt be made able to do accordingly.*"

Again, note the spirit of this next, which is an extract from a letter written to the English Parliament informing it of some signal victories in his Irish campaign.

After describing the circumstances under which the victories were gained, he says: "Sir, what can be said of these things? Is it an arm of flesh that hath done these things? Is it the wisdom and counsel or strength of men? It is the Lord only. God will curse that man and his house that dares to think otherwise! *Sir, you see the work is done by a Divine leading.*"

Cromwell believed with all his soul that if the cause which he espoused was of God, no weapon formed against it could prosper. The following extract from a speech delivered to one of his parliaments may be profitably considered by many who tremble for the Ark of

God. I give comments by Carlyle as well.

Speaking of the cause of the Commonwealth, he says: "Supposing this cause or this business must be carried on, it is either of God or of man. If it be of man, I would I had never touched it with a finger. [Hear.] If I had not had a hope fixed in me that this cause and this business was of God, I would many years ago have run from it. If it be of God, He will bear it up. [Yea!] If it be of man it will tumble; as every thing that hath been of man since the world began hath done. And what are all our histories and other traditions of actions in former times, but God manifesting Himself, that He hath shaken, and tumbled down, and trampled upon, everything that He had not planted. And as this is, so let the all-wise God deal with it. If this be of human structure and invention, and if it be of an old plotting and contriving to bring things to this issue, and that they are not the births of Providence, then they will tumble, but if the Lord take pleasure in England, and if He will do us good, He is very able to bear us up! Let the difficulties be whatsoever they will, we shall in His strength be able to encounter with them, and I bless God I have been inured to difficulties; and I never found God failing when I trusted in Him. *I can laugh and sing in my heart when I speak of these things to you or elsewhere.*" (Italics mine.) What an address to be delivered before the House of Commons! and by a man who meant every word of it too, not some mere painted or perfunctory "Defender of the Faith."

Cromwell's attitude towards the cause of the Commonwealth of England was precisely that of members of the Canada Holiness Association towards the cause which they espouse. If it be God's cause it will stand; if not it must fall.

Further on in the same speech we read: "It was," say some, "the cunning of the Lord Protector." I take it to myself, "It was the craft of such a man and his plot that brought it about"; and as they say in other countries, "there are five or six cunning men in England that have skill; they do all these things."