

“ upon me ; and taking my testament in my hand, I went along
 “ with him to the place of execution, and after common saluta-
 “ tion, there stood. There stood by, also, one of the Magis-
 “ trates, by name Mr. Increase Nowell, who for a while kept
 “ silent, and spoke not a word, and so did I, expecting the
 “ Governor’s presence ; but he came not. But after a while
 “ Mr. Nowell bade the executioner do his office. Then I de-
 “ sired to speak a few words, but Mr. Nowell answered, It is
 “ not now a time to speak ; whereupon I took leave and said :
 “ Men, brethren, fathers and countrymen, I beseech you give
 “ me leave to speak a few words ; and the rather because here
 “ are many spectators to see me punished, and I am to seal
 “ with my blood if God give me strength, that which I hold
 “ and practice in reference to the Word of God and the testi-
 “ mony of Jesus, that which I have to say in brief is this : Al-
 “ though I confess I am no disputant, yet seeing I am to seal
 “ what I hold with my blood, I am ready to defend it by the
 “ Word, and to dispute that point with any that shall come
 “ forth to withstand it. Mr. Nowell answered me, now is no
 “ time to dispute. Then, said I, then I desire to give an ac-
 “ count of the faith and order I hold. And this I desired three
 “ times, but in comes Mr. Flint and saith to the executioner,
 “ Fellow, do thine office, for this fellow would but make a long
 “ speech to delude the people. So I, being resolved to speak,
 “ told the people : That which I am to suffer for is for the
 “ Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. No, saith
 “ Mr. Nowell, it is for your error, and going about to
 “ seduce the people. To which I replied : Not for error, for
 “ in all my imprisonment wherein I was left alone, (my breth-
 “ ren being gone), which of all your ministers in all that time
 “ came to convince me of error ? and when upon the court’s
 “ words a motion was made for a public dispute, and upon fair
 “ terms, so often renewed and desired by hundreds, what was
 “ the reason it was not granted ? Mr. Nowell told me it was
 “ his fault, who went away and would not dispute.* But
 “ this the writing will clear at large.

* Mr. Clark was aware this would be said when he found the dispute was evaded,
 wherefore he wrote the following letter to the Magistrates : “ Whereas through the