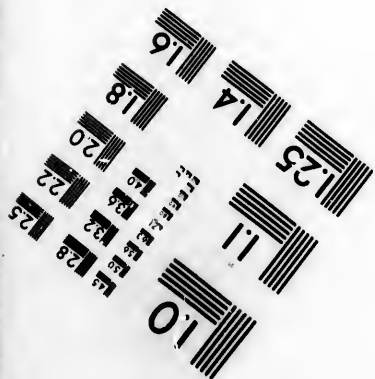
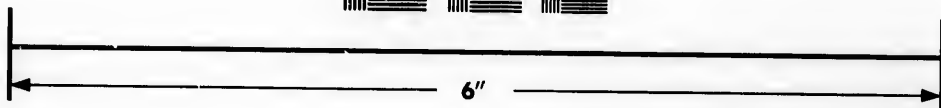
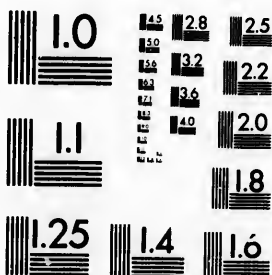


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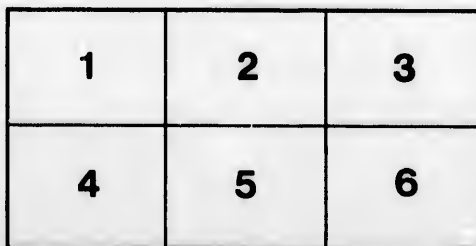
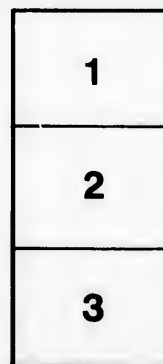
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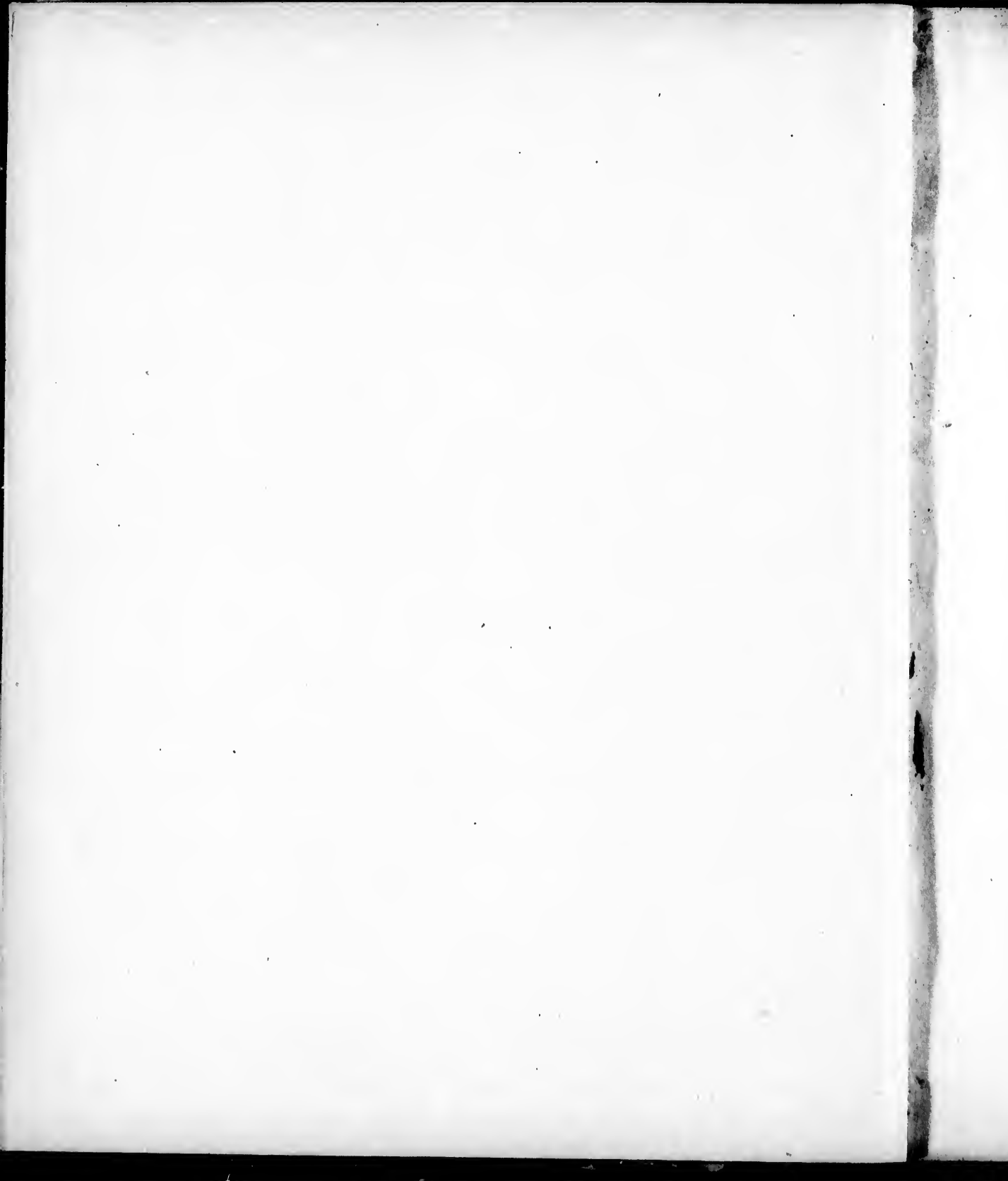
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A
S E R M O N

Preached before the RIGHT HONOURABLE the
L O R D - M A Y O R,
T H E
C O U R T of A L D E R M E N,
A N D T H E
L I V E R I E S of the several COMPANIES of the
C I T Y of L O N D O N,
I N T H E
C A T H E D R A L C H U R C H of St. PAUL,

On THURSDAY, November 29, 1759;

Being the Day appointed by Proclamation for a GENERAL
T H A N K S G I V I N G to GOD;

For vouchsafing such signal Successes to His Majesty's Arms,
both by Sea and Land, particularly by the Defeat of the
French Army in Canada, and the Taking of *Quebec*; and
for most seasonably granting us at this Time an uncom-
monly plentiful Harvest.

By JAMES TOWNLEY, M. A.

Rector of the united Parishes of St. Bennet, Grace-Church, and
St. Leonard, Eastcheap, and Lecturer of St. Dunstan's in
the East.

L O N D O N :

Printed for H. KENT, in *Finch-lane*, near the *Royal Exchange*;
T. FIELD, in *Cheapside*; and J. WALTER, at *Charing-Cross*.
1759.

[Price Six-pence.]

CHITTY, Mayor.

Tuesday the 11th Day of December, 1759,
and in the Thirty-third Year of the Reign
of King GEORGE the Second, of Great
Britain, &c.

IT is ordered that the Thanks of this Court
be given to the Reverend Mr. *Townley*, for
his Sermon preached before the Lord-Mayor
and Aldermen, and several of the Livery Com-
panies of this City, at the Cathedral Church
of *St. Paul*, on *Thursday* the 29th Day of
November last, being the Day appointed by
His Majesty for a public Thanksgiving, and
that he be desired to print the same.

H O D G E S.

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE
Sir THOMAS CHITTY, *Knt.*
LORD-MAYOR,
THE
ALDERMEN,
AND
CITIZENS of LONDON,
THIS
SERMON,

Is, with all RESPECT, Dedicated, by

Their most obliged, and

Most obedient Servant,

Dec. 31, 1759.

James Townley.



P S A L M CXXII. 6.

They shall prosper that love Thee.

THIS Psalm was composed by holy *David*, for the Use of the People of *Israel*, when they went up to *Jerusalem*, to worship at the appointed Solemnities: And the Design of it was to inspire them with a Regard and Love for their Country. His principal Care therefore was to consider what Means would be most effectual to this Purpose; and his Wisdom and Experience soon led him to observe, that nothing was so likely to raise this public Spirit, as a Promise of Prosperity; a Motive which would have great Influence on the human Mind, and, more particularly, among a People who were intently fixed on the Enjoyment of temporal Happiness.

6 *A SERMON preached before*

The Love which a Man bears to the Country wherein he was born is an universal Principle, which was, no Doubt, implanted in the human Breast, by the all-wise Creator, as an Incentive to great and good Actions; and indeed the Effects of it have been such as a Principle less extensive could never have produced.

History will furnish us with numberless Examples of this Truth, but happy is it for us that we need not look farther than our own Age and Nation.

All Men are born with this exalted Principle; it is stamp'd upon every Heart: But to be in a Situation that may make it of great and signal Service is the Lot only of a Few: The common People feel it very strongly; but cannot, as Individuals, make it of any material Advantage. In Persons of Rank, and with Abilities equal to their Rank, it may have its utmost Scope; nor can they, at any Time, forget the Duty which it prescribes

scribes, without making themselves the Objects of perpetual Disgrace.

This perhaps may be more clearly understood, by pointing out an Instance or two, in which this great Principle, THE LOVE OF OUR COUNTRY, may be exerted.

He, who is bless'd with superior Talents, and in a proper Situation to exert them, will give the surest Proof of his Patriotism, by the Reverence which he pays to the Religion of his Country ; and this not only by assenting in general to the Doctrines of it, but by a strict Observance of the Duties which it prescribes. Piety gives the best Lustre to Greatness. It ennobles the Faculties of the Mind, and sanctifies their Use, making them, as *Solomon* elegantly speaks, *like Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver*. The Man who is of this happy Disposition has an infinite Advantage over those whose irreligious Sentiments, and depraved Morals, exactly, but fatally correspond : For they can never obtain the Confidence of the
Publick,

Publick, because, having no Principle, they will of course disregard every Obligation : Whereas a religious Man meets with, and deserves the implicit Trust that is reposed in him ; a Trust which he can never abuse who considers himself as accountable to God for all his Actions.

Again ; He who loves his Country, will conscientiously observe the Laws which it has established. In every well regulated State equal Regard is paid to the Power of the Governor, and to the Liberties of those who are governed. It is extremely difficult to avoid particular Attachments. Men incline to a Side or Party, as Interest, or Education, or Humour happens to direct ; but the true Patriot forms his Judgment and determines his Actions by the golden Mean : He faithfully renders all due Respect and Service to the Majesty of Princes, but without sacrificing the Liberty of the Subject, and zealously exerts every Ability, lest Power should grow into
Tyranny,

Tyranny, or Liberty degenerate into Licentiousness.

Farther ; Every one of great Abilities, who is employed in the Service of his Country will endeavour to cherish in his Mind all those Virtues which his Station is capable of exercising. He who holds the Reins of Government, a Task so arduous that few have even a Conception of it, may be cautious ; but he must be void of Fear. The conscious Integrity of his Heart will supply him with Steadiness and Courage ; and though the Weight of Power may sometimes oppress, yet will the Uprightness of his Intentions inspire him with a Resolution superior to every Difficulty. He acts with uncommon Vigor in detecting, by Vigilance, the false Friends ; and opposing, by Intrepidity, the avowed Enemies of his Country. He calls forth every Virtue for the Service of his royal Master, and, what is inseparably connected with it, the general Welfare of the State. Generosity, Honour, and a Regard for the public Good are conspicuous

spicuous in him ; without which the most distinguished Abilities are, to all virtuous and honourable Purposes, utterly ineffectual : And these great and necessary Virtues will be so constantly guarded and defended by him, that no bold presumptuous Vice, or little Meanness, will be able to mix with them, and by that Means, either fully or debase their Excellence. For can the Avaritious, the Profligate, or the Ambitious, whose sole Aim, is to devour, to corrupt, and to enslave, be called **LOVERS OF THEIR COUNTRY ?**

But we shall be fully instructed in this great and amiable Character, by summing up every Circumstance belonging to it, in the concise and expressive Terms of one who derived his Knowledge from the Fountain of Truth —
**LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD — FEAR GOD —
 HONOUR THE KING.**

Having thus pointed out some particular Instances, in which that great Principle, **THE LOVE**
 OF

The Right Honourable the LORD-MAYOR. 11

OF OUR COUNTRY, may be properly exerted, it will be of Use to examine into the Reasons on which the Assertion in the Text may be founded, *They shall prosper that love Thee.*

The true Lover of his Country has Reason to hope for Prosperity, from the Means which he makes use of to attain Success. A good Intention, however laudable, will not be sufficient of itself to make any Design prosperous; but if the Plan be well laid, and the constituent Parts are firm and well connected, and if these Essentials are founded on the best Intention, namely, the true Interest of a Nation, we shall not only be ready to approve of, but even to answer for the Success of any Enterprize concerted with so much Wisdom. We of this happy Kingdom are able to produce astonishing Proofs of the great Consequence of proper Means, wisely and uprightly employed. We have seen Designs that have had for their Foundation, the Honour and Dignity of the Crown, and the Rights and Advantages of the People, that have been planned

ned by the greatest Abilities, and executed with equal Talents, succeed beyond the most sanguine Expectations. But I would not presume too much on these fortunate Events, the final Issue of which it is not in the Power of human Sagacity to foresee. All that can be pronounced with Certainty is, that where Wisdom, Integrity, and Resolution are united, they are the most likely Means, as far as human Power extends, to obtain Success.

It is wonderful to think what a Man of this great Character can do. — He fills every Breast with his own Spirit — Men are eager to imitate his Virtues — They are ashamed not to do their Duty — They catch the noble Flame — They carry it into distant Regions — The persuasive, the animating Example excites them to sacrifice their Ease, their Fortunes, their Health, their Lives, in Support of so wise, so just, so virtuous an Administration.

I can fairly appeal, not only to every Member of this great and honourable City, which
is

is closely connected with this renowned Merit, and happy in the Connection, but to every Man, — to every disinterested Man, in the Nation, if his Heart does not glow with a Love and Admiration of these illustrious Virtues.

But all human Power is Weakness, all Man's Wisdom Foolishness, without the Aid and Guidance of the great Lord of the Universe: All Knowledge and Experience, all Strength and Courage, every Quality, and every Ability, is weak and vain, unless He is pleased to send his Blessing upon them.

It is not the Sword or the Spear, or the Multitude of an Host, that can bring Success, unless *the King of Kings, and Governor of all Things, whose Power no Creature is able to resist,* shall save and deliver his Servants from the Hands of their Enemies. Yet must it be an unspeakable Joy, to every great and good Man, and a never-failing Support in the Duties of his Station, to think that God hath promised, in his holy Word, in the Book of eternal Life, to protect

and assist those who put their Trust and Confidence in him, *who call upon him out of a pure Heart — The Lord upholdeth the Righteous, — He shall give his Angels Charge over thee — The Salvation of the Righteous cometh of the Lord, who is also their Strength in the Day of Trouble. — Great Prosperity giveth he to his King, to his Anointed, and to his Seed for evermore.*

Let us then confirm these divine Truths ; let us proclaim the great Mercy and Goodness of God, in vouchsafing such signal Successes to his Majesty's Arms; and sending his Blessing on those Endeavours which have been used for the Chastisement of a faithless and insolent Enemy. Let us in the deepest Sense of our own Unworthiness, in a profound Veneration of God's infinite Power, and in the Voice of Praise and Thanksgiving, say, with the heavenly Host; *Salvation, and Honour, and Power, and Glory, be unto him that sitteth on the Throne. — Great and marvellous are thy Works, O Lord God Almighty! Just and true are thy Ways, O King of Saints !"*

It

It would be unnecessary to repeat all the Instances of Success with which the divine Providence hath blessed the Arms and Councils of our most gracious Sovereign: But some striking Particulars must not be omitted, tho' it is difficult to say where we shall begin to speak of the Blessings of Heaven to these Kingdoms, or open the Scene of his Majesty's Glory and Happiness.

When his Enemies, for a while victorious, threatned utter Destruction to his Dominions, and presumptuously flattered themselves with the Certainty of Success; the God of Heaven interposed, gave a wonderful Presence of Mind to the Princely Commander, Firmness and Intrepidity to the Soldiers, and, by a total Defeat of the Enemy, turned the King's Mourning into Victory: A Victory which will be remembered to the Honour of the *British* Infantry, as long as the Sun endureth; and which, considered in all its Circumstances, plainly discovered the Hand of Heaven, and proved that *the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel.*

But

But the Assistance of Heaven on our Side hath not been confined to one Part of the Globe ; His Majesty's Arms, under the divine Direction, have been victorious in every Quarter of the World ; the Triumphs on the *American* Continent, obtained under the Disadvantages of Climate, Situation and disproportionate Numbers, are great and astonishing. Every Man beholds those Wonders with Rapture and Amazement ; though his Joy must feel a Check, at the Loss of that gallant Commander who fell in completing the wonderful Victory.

God hath been pleased also, particularly to bless his Majesty in the Friendship of his great and Royal Ally, who by his extraordinary Wisdom, Valour and Experience, by every great, and every amiable Quality, hath purchased to himself a Name surpassing all the Names of Antiquity.

And yet our Happiness doth not even end here. We triumph on the other Element, and
the

the Seas bear the Ensigns of our Glory : And surely it is a Circumstance never to be forgotten, that the Number of the Slain in Battle, on our Part, is small and inconsiderable, when compared to the great Variety and Importance of our Conquests.

Let then the sacred Truth burst from our Lips, in the religious Sentiment of the royal Psalmist, *The Lord of Hosts is with us ; The God of Jacob is our Refuge.*

The Bounties of Heaven are unlimited — We have another Blessing which calls aloud for Acknowledgment and Gratitude.

We are assembled to return our unfeigned Thanks to God, for most seasonably granting us at this Time, an uncommonly plentiful Harvest. *The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. He turneth the Floods into a Wilderness, and drieth up the Water Springs. A fruitful Land maketh he barren, for the Wickedness of them that dwell therein. Again he maketh the Wilderness a standing Water, and*

Water Springs of a dry Ground. — While other Nations have suffered by Scarcity, while their Land has been drenched with Blood, and their Fields have languished and mourned; God hath crowned our Year *with Goodness*; our Folds have been full of Sheep; our Vallies have stood so thick with Corn, that they have laughed and sung.

This is an Æra in the Annals of *Great Britain*, which Posterity will remember with Admiration and Reverence. They will think us an happy Generation; Surely then we ought to think ourselves so. We ought to make such a religious and moral Use of the marvellous Things which God hath done for us, as may best express our Gratitude to him, and secure his future Favour: And, in the Height of our Joy and Thanksgiving, to consider that he, who hath given us such Cause to rejoice, expects that we should not suffer *our Prosperity to destroy us*, by being led to think *our Hill so strong that it cannot be removed*.

With

With our sincere and hearty Thanks for these wonderful and manifold Blessings, let us add our unfeigned Prayers to the Throne of Grace, and beseech Almighty God to defend and protect these Kingdoms in their Religion, Liberties, and Commerce, and to give us, in his good Time, a secure, lasting, and honourable Peace; that he would be pleased, as the most happy Means to so glorious an End, to guard and prolong the Life of our most gracious Sovereign, and to bless and preserve the Royal Family; that when the greatest and best of Kings, full of Days and Honour, shall change his temporal for an eternal Crown, We may never want a Prince, of his Illustrious House, blessed with all the Virtues of his Ancestors, to reign over these Kingdoms, in great Dignity and Prosperity, and to govern a free, dutiful, and united People, in Righteousness, Justice and Mercy. *Amen.*

F I N I S.

