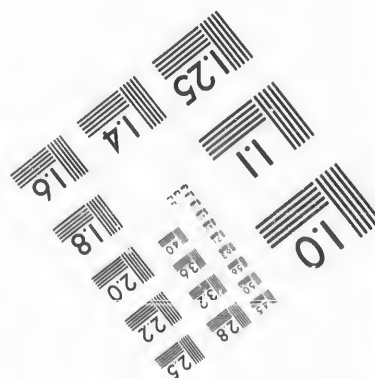
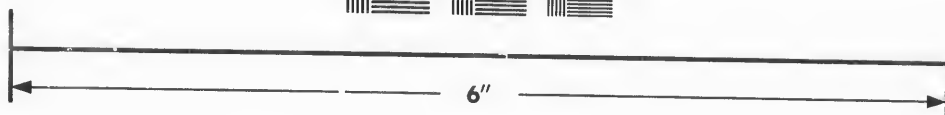
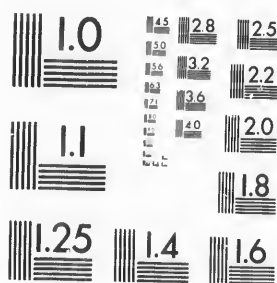


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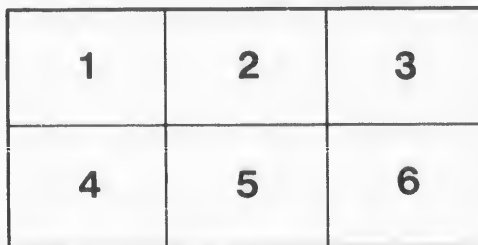
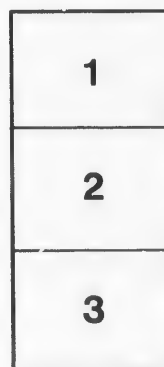
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22
Phineas Wright

Mr. WOODWARD'S

Thanksgiving SERMON,

F O R

The Reduction of *Montreal*, and
Conquest of CANADA.

Given by the Author. At Worcester 1778

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S E R M O N

Preached OCTOBER 9. 1760.

Being a Day of Public THANKSGIVING

On Occasion of

The Reduction of *Montreal*

A N D

The entire CONQUEST of CANADA,

By the Troops of His *Britannic* MAJESTY;

Under the Command of General AMHERST.

By *Samuel Woodward*, A. M.

PASTOR of the Church in *Weston*.



B O S T O N :

Printed by Benjamin Mecom, at the
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A Thanksgiving SERMON.

F O R

The CONQUEST of CANADA.

P S A L M CXXIV.

If it had not been the LORD who was on our Side, now may Israel say ;

If it had not been the LORD who was on our Side, when Men rose up against us :

Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their Wrath was kindled against us :

Then the Waters had overwhelmed us, the Stream had gone over our Soul.

Then the proud Waters had gone over our Soul.

Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a Prey to their Teeth.

Our Soul is escaped as a Bird out of the Snare of the Fowlers : the Snare is broken, and we are escaped.

Our Help is in the Name of the LORD, who made Heaven and Earth.

“ **A**S there is not an Atom in the Universe,
“ but God’s absolute Wisdom directed
“ Him to make it, and his almighty Power
“ produced it, with the wisest Views and Purposes ;
“ and for all its Trains of Situations, Influence

and
Given by the Rev^d Mr. H. C. Woodward

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“ and Uses throughout the Period of its Existence, “ or so long as he sees fit to give it Being :” So this great Author of the Universe, who has given to Beings and Things their Existence and Natures, has also appointed to them their Bounds, their Sphere of Action and respective Ends. It is therefore altogether reasonable, that Men should ascribe their Beings, and all the Powers and Passions of Body and Mind to him, who is justly esteemed the Former of our Bodies, and Father of our Spirits. And as God hath implanted in our Natures different Passions, so these are naturally excited and called forth by the various Scenes, and very different Circumstances of Life ; which, under the wise and all-governing Providence of God, we are called to pass through. Joy and Sorrow, Gladness of Heart and Dejection of Spirit naturally and alternately rise and fall, according to the different Aspects of divine Providence on a People. It is, therefore, agreeable to natural Principles, as well as the Dictates of our holy Religion, in a Day of Prosperity, to be joyful, and, in a Day of Adversity, to be in Heaviness. And hence, in all Nations, and in every Age, the inward Sense a People have generally had of the peculiar Smiles or Frowns of Heaven upon them, has been manifested by outward Demonstrations of Joy or Sorrow.

The

The Conduct of *Israel* upon their Deliverance at the *Red Sea*; and of the *Ninevites*, under their threatened Ruin, were clear Expressions of the particular Sense they had of God's Dealings with them. Days of publick Thanksgiving, as well as of Humiliation, Days of Feasting as well as of Fasting, have, no Doubt, with great Propriety, been instituted and observed, both by *Jews* and *Christians*. For, if we look back on the Annals of Time, and critically eye the Conduct of divine Providence toward Mankind, in the various Ages of the World; we shall find, that God has never left himself without Witness; but has been doing Good, filling the Hearts of Men with Joy and Gladness. And both before and under the *Jewish* Dispensation, as well as in Gospel Times; when God designed to perpetuate the Remembrance of any peculiar Period of Time, remarkable Event in Providence, or extraordinary Salvation wrought for his People; he appointed Monuments to be erected as standing Witnesses and Monitors to Mankind of their Obligation therefor. Thus, the Stone at *Bethel*; the Monument at *Galeed*; the twelve Stones erected in *Jordan*; as well as Pile at *Gilgal*, are standing Memorials of important Events. And no less proper and sufficient to such a Purpose, are Days set apart amongst a People, religiously to commemorate the Salvations of God, and publickly to praise his Name therefor. As the

Jewish

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Jewish Passover, and *Christian* Sabbath, so Days of religious Worship, and publick Thanksgiving, observed amongst ourselves, have had a happy Tendency to keep alive the Remembrance of the great Things God has done for his People. And as our pious Rulers, even from the Days of our Fathers, have statedly called this obliged People, to the Duties of publick Thanksgiving, for the more common Benefits with which they have been loaded ; so upon any remarkable and interesting Turn in Providence, whether prosperous or adverse, they have called us to the answerable Duties of extraordinary Praise or Prayer. And of both these there has been frequent Occasion in this Land, on Account of the different Aspects of God's Providence on our Arms, in the troublesome and expensive Wars we have been engaged in with our *French* and *Indian* Enemies. And even in the present War we have had great Occasion to humble ourselves before God, on Account of his Frowns upon us, to bow the Knee in humble Supplication for his Help ; and, also God has given us abundant Reason for Thanksgiving, by turning the bright Side of the Cloud to us. Indeed, by Reason of repeated Disappointments, and the Successes of our Enemies against us, we were sunk almost into Despair ; which might be a Reason why the Joy of Salvation, when it came, was so sensibly felt. Altho' the Successes which
God

God has granted us heretofore, have been a just Foundation of Rejoicing, yet, the Thought, that our Conquests were incomplete, that Enemies remained still armed against us, and that some of our worthy and great Deliverers fell in their Achievements, administred a very disagreeable Alloy to it. But the present Occasion of Thanksgiving seems to be free from such unhappy Mixtures. God has now made us glad according to the *Psalm* wherein he had afflicted us, and the Years wherein we have seen Evil. For three Years God has been turning our Captivity, kindly changing the Scene of our Affairs, and coming toward us in his merciful Providence. And the News of some of our Successes has so far surpassed our Expectations, and so effectually scattered our Fears, that we have been (as were *Israel* of old, when King *Cyrus* proclaimed their Liberty from the *Babylonish* Captivity;) “like them that dreamed; our Mouths have been filled with Laughter, and our Tongues with Singing:” Then said our *Heathen* and idolatrous Enemies, the Lord has done great Things for them. And the present is the crowning Year; in which God has completed our Conquests, (at least with Respect to the Object we have had in View) without the Effusion of much human Blood; answered our Prayers, fulfilled our Wishes, & effectually turned our Mourning into Joy. “The Lord

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has done great Things for us, whereof we are glad." The Lord has turned our Captivity as the Streams in the South. We, who have sown in Tears, now reap in Joy. It surely then becomes us upon this Occasion, (in Imitation of *Noah*, *Abram*, and *David*) to erect an Altar to the Lord, and offer the purest Sacrifices of Thanksgiving to him, who alone has wro't such Deliverance for us. The Psalm which I have read to you seems to be well adapted to prompt and direct our Meditations this Day, since it was penned by *David* after some remarkable Victory, over a numerous Host of his Enemies; perhaps the *Philistines*, when they spread themselves in the Valley of *Rephaim*. 2 Sam. v, 19. or the *Ammonites*, and their Associates, 2 Sam. x, 6.

And these Words, when viewed in their Accommodation to the present Day, very naturally lead us distinctly to consider

The Difficulties and Dangers we have been in by Reason of our Enemies.

How effectually, and by what a Series of military Successes these Difficulties and Dangers have been removed.

How far, or in what Sense, our Escape is to be attributed to God.

How great an Occasion of Joy our late great Deliverance must be to us.---and

To whom our Sacrifices of Thanksgiving are to be

be offered, and through whom alone they can be accepted.

First, then, we are to consider the Difficulties and Dangers we have been in by Reason of our Enemies; suggested in our Text, by "Men's rising up:" By "Waters overwhelming us;" By "the proud Waters:" And by "the Snare of the Fowlers." These Expressions of the Psalmist, no Doubt, are to represent the Enemy as powerful, by Reason of Numbers, as great and irresistible Streams of Water, and cunning, and deceitful, like the Snare placed by a skilful Fowler. Thus, "as the Fishes that are taken in an evil Net, and as the Birds that are caught in the Snare; so are the Sons of Men snared in an evil Time." But, perhaps, the Difficulties and Dangers we have been in by Reason of our Enemies, may better appear; if we consider particularly, who our Enemies have been: What has been their Situation: And from what Principles they have acted.

Now if we look back a little more than two Centuries, we shall find the earliest Accounts of the Discovery and planting of the Country of *New-France*, which has been the Nest of our Enemies, and Source of our Distresses. The first Discovery of *Canada* River that we know of, was by a Coaster in the King of *France's* Service, who sailed some Way
into

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into said River, and named it *St. Lawrence*, because discovered on that Saint's Day.† In the Year 1534 and 5. *J. Cartier*, of *St. Malo*, proceeded up said River, as far as *Montreal*, and named the Country *New-France*. A Handfull of Men, from *France*, settled in *Canada* in 1542, which were the first Inhabitants; but these did not continue there. About the Middle of the 16th Century, Secretary *Walsingham* of *England*, fitted out Sir *Humphrey Gilbert*, who sail'd up *St. Lawrence's* River, and took Possession for the Crown of *England*. Notwithstanding which, in 1604, *Henry IV.* of *France*, planted a Colony there. However, in 1627, and 1628, Sir *David Kirk* and Associates having obtained a Commission from the King of *England*, as private Adventurers, conquered this *French* Colony, and after sending the Inhabitants to *England*, took Possession, and Patents being obtained from the *English* Court, the Lands called *Canada*, North of the River *St. Lawrence*, were granted to Sir *David Kirk*: But afterward, at the Conclusion of a Peace, were unhappily ceded to *France*, in the Treaty of *St. Germain*, by King *Charles* in 1632; which gave them that Possession which has continued until now.---

Now

† The Author owns himself obliged to Dr. *Douglafs* for the Account he has given of the original Discovery and Settlement of *Canada*.

Now these *French* Neighbours in Process of Time, so-increased in Number, Power and Policy, that at Length, in Conjunction with the Aborigines of the Land, over whom they have had great Influence, they became very formidable and troublesome to the *English* Colonies on the Continent. And hence, in 1690, Sir *William Phipps* was sent against *Quebec*, with a Fleet of 34 Sail, and an Army of Provincials from *New-England*, which Expedition proved abortive. In 1711 the *English* intended to besiege *Quebec* with 68 Vessels, under the Command of Sir *Hovenden Walker*, who sailed from *Boston* July 30, with 6463 Men, under the Command of Mr. *Hill*. But these being cast away in a Fog, 8 Transports were lost, and 884 Men, in the River; which entirely defeated that Design. Again in 1746 another Expedition to *Canada* was formed, which, together with the Reasons of its falling thro', the most of us remember. Thus this hostile, sagacious, and designing People met with no remarkable Check from us in their Growth and Empire, till they increased as is now judged to be about 100,000 Souls, and about 7 or 8000 Militia. These are the People from whom we have received our Troubles; together with numerous Tribes, or rather Swarms of *Indians*, who have been set on Work, countenanced, encouraged, protected and rewarded by the *French*; who have

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have, with Respect to us, proved but little less blood-thirsty and cruel than the barbarous Natives of the Land. Thus much to shew who our Enemies have been.---Let us next

Consider what has been their Situation; which will further shew the Difficulties and Dangers we have been in by Reason of them.---Now this People whose first Settlement was in our Neighbourhood, according to the Plan of *Lewis XIV. of France*, have been extending their Settlements, Trading-Places, and finally their Fortresses, from the Mouth of the River *St. Lawrence*, to their southern Province of *Louisiana*, by which they have environed us round, and had the Advantage of easy Access to all our Colonies, either by themselves, or by barbarous *Indians*, whom they employed to distress us; and who, when they had exerted themselves in the most inhuman Barbarities, on our Frontiers, could soon retreat back under the Protection of their wicked Emissaries, the *French*, who equally rejoiced at unjust Rapine, Butchery, and Devastation upon the *English*: “ for all the Incursions and Rapines of the *Indians*, have been concerted, encouraged and conducted by our perfidious Neighbours, the *French* of *Canada*. ”---But then the Grounds of our Troubles may be yet plainer, if we

Consider the Principles from which our sagacious,
power-

powerful, and advantageously-situated Enemies have acted. And we may observe here a Principle of Deceit, which makes any Foe more dangerous, and has rendered the *French* so especially, both in *Europe* and *America*. “ They are complete Masters of the “ Art of Dissimulation. By Custom, Time out of “ Mind, they are above, and do upon all Occa- “ sions dispense with the Principles of Honour and “ Honesty.” And from such a Principle our *French* Enemies have acted in *North-America*, as has been too evident by their sending the Natives to butcher us under the most solemn Stipulations of Peace.

Another Principle observable, is that of their Ambition. They are naturally inclined, as well as arbitrarily enjoined, to assert and support the lawless Ambition of their Prince, and his Thirst for Honour and universal Empire.

Another Thing to be remarked is their Bigotry to the Principles of the *Romish* Religion, which has mightily stimulated them in their Opposition to those of the Protestant Persuasion, and has render’d them jealous, yea, over-anxious, lest any Advantages gained against them, in War, should make Way for impressing on their Minds different Sentiments in Religion.

Another Thing, which may be mentioned here, is their false Notion of Merit, whether by destroying
Pro-

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Protestant Hereticks (so called by them) or by falling themselves in the Field of Battle. When everlasting Happiness has been supposed to be merited by these Things, we can't wonder it has given Strength to their Resolutions, and Vigour to their Endeavours. Thus, by considering, who our Enemies have been; what their Situation; and, from what Principles they have acted; we are enabled in some Measure to judge of the Dangers and Distresses they have plunged us in. Wherefore we may pass to consider

Secondly, How effectually, and by what a Series of military Successes these Troubles and Dangers have been removed; suggested in our Text, by, "The Snare is broken, and we are escaped."

This Account I would preface by observing that *America* has been the Seat of the present War with the *French*. The *English* Settlements have long been the Envy of *France* and *Canada*. And a fatal and finishing Blow upon us, has long been meditated by them. Their Plan was laid deep; the Views and proposed Measures were extensive and subtil. But at last their Designs grew too bare-faced to be concealed; and Encroachments too great to be suffered, which forced us into a bloody and distressing War, proclaimed in *England*, May 18, 1756. In *France*, June, 9. And, in *Boston*, the 4th Day of August

August following. Ever since which, and even from before said Proclamation of War, Hostilities have been continued. And under the fatherly Care of our gracious Sovereign, and by the friendly Assistance of our mother Country, together with the vigorous Efforts of these Colonies, (so much, and so immediately interested) we have maintained a warm and resolute Dispute with our Enemies. And as we set out in a dark Day; so, (notwithstanding the grateful Remembrance we have of the Success of our *Nova-Scotian* Troops in 1755, and the Victory obtained at *Lake George Sept. 8, 1755*.) we may say that Clouds and thick Darkeness covered us till the Year before last. The Difficulties of our Situation grew more formidable, as the Prospects of our Enemies grew more encouraging. None can forget the grand Discouragements; and insurmountable Difficulties, which seemed to attend our military Affairs, at the Close of the Year 1757, in which *Fort William Henry* was surrendered to the *French*. Thousands felt what they dare not speak, and expressed what nothing but Fear and Discouragement could suggest. That was a Day of Trouble, when the very present Help of the Lord was needed, and was by many earnestly sought. Never did Bondage and Tyranny appear nearer to *English America*, perhaps, than at that Day.---But, behold!

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we may join with the Prophet, and say, " We will praise thee, for though thou wast angry with us, thine Anger is turned away, and thou comfortest us." God has been our very present Help in Trouble. For, altho' we have in Remembrance General *Braddock's* Defeat, near *Fort Du Quesne*, July 9, 1755. The Loss of *Oswego* and *Ontario* Forts, Aug. 14, 1756. The Surrender of *Fort William* Henry to the Enemy, Aug. 9, 1757. And the Repulse of General *Abercrombie*, from before *Fort Carrilon*, at *Ticonderoga*, July 8, 1758.---Yet that Year 58 opened to us new Scenes, and fairer Prospects : In this seems to have commenced that happy Train of Successes, by which our Dangers and Troubles have been removed. To this Year's Successes we are to reckon the Reduction of *Cape-Breton*, July 26. Of *Frontenac*, August 27, of *Fort Du Quesne*, Nov. 24.---Now the Clouds began to break, for the Help of the Lord was conspicuous. These seemed to be Earnests of that Success so much desired against their principal Country. And in the celebrated Year 1759 were these important Events, viz. the Surrender of *Guadaloupe*, May 2. The Taking of *Niagara*, July 25. The Evacuation of *Fort Carrilon* at *Ticonderoga*, July 26, and of *Crown-Point*, Aug. 1. The Battle on the *Plains of Abraham*, in which the valiant General *Wolfe* was slain,

Sept.

Sept. 13. The Reduction of *Quebec*, *Sept. 18.* These are some of the great Things God did for us, in the Year 1759.----And to this present Year 1760, we are to set the glorious Action of General *Murray*, on the *Heights of Abraham*, *April 28*, from which, however, he was obliged to retreat to the City with great Loss. The Raising the *French* Siege at *Quebec*, upon the Appearance of the *British* Fleet, in the River, *May 16.* And the Successes of the respective Corps, under the Command of Generals *Amherst*, *Murray* and *Haviland*, in their Way from their respective Quarters, to the Centre they finally aimed at; until at last, being near a Union, they appeared so formidable and irresistible, that on the eighth Day of *September*, *Montreal*, their last Resort, with the whole Country of *Canada*, was surrendered to the Crown of *England*.----This now is the Object we have been aiming at, this crowns our Wishes, and completes our Joy. “The Lord has done great Things for us, whereof we are glad.” Thus we see how effectually, and by what a Series of military Successes, our Difficulties and Dangers have been removed; the Snare has hereby been broken, and we are escaped.

But, surely, we are indebted for so great a Mercy to Him, whose Dominion is an everlasting Dominion, whose Kingdom is from Generation to Generation :

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ration : In Comparifon of whom, all the Inhabitants of the Earth are reputed as Nothing : " Who doth according to his Will in the Army of Heaven, and among the Inhabitants of the Earth."---Let us then confider

Tbirdly, How far, or in what Senfes our preſent Eſcape is to be attributed to God. " If it had not been the Lord, who was on our Side, now may *Iſrael* ſay ; if it had not been the Lord who was on our Side, when Men roſe up againſt us, then they had ſwallowed us up quick."---But, how effectually has God ſcattered the dark Clouds that have been hanging over us !---How has he turned our Captivity !---" The Lord has made known his Salvation, his Righteouſneſs hath he openly ſhewed in the Sight of the *Heathen*. He hath remembered his Mercy, and his Truth toward the Houſe of *Iſrael*.---The Lord hath done great Things for us---We will praife thee, for tho' thou waſt angry with us, thine Anger is turned away."---God is the powerful and glorious Agent in all theſe Things. God has all Nations and Parties in his Hand. " If we ſpeak of Strength, he is ſtrong.---His Underſtanding is infinite." To uſe the Language of *Eliphaz*, " God doth great Things, and unſearchable marvellous Things without Number. He ſetteth up on high thoſe that be low ; that thoſe which mourn may

may be exalted to Safety. He disappointeth the Devices of the Crafty, so that their Hands cannot perform their Enterprize. He taketh the Wise in their own Craftiness, and the Counsel of the Forward is carried headlong. He saveth the Poor from the Sword, and from the Hand of the Mighty. The Kingdom is the Lord's, and he is the Governor among the Nations. All Nations before Him are as Nothing, and they are counted to him less than Nothing and Vanity."---God appoints and overrules in the Changes of States and Kingdoms. And we may, upon our late happy Deliverance, adopt the Thanksgiving of *Daniel*.--- "Blessed be the Name of God for ever and ever : For Wisdom and Might are his, and he changeth the Times and the Seasons, he removeth Kings, and setteth up Kings : He giveth Wisdom to the Wise, and Knowledge to them that know Understanding."---But altho' God is to be acknowledged and praised as the supreme Agent, yet he generally makes use of and honours Instruments in accomplishing great Designs.

"The sovereign God in the Times of his People's Danger, from their Enemies, is to be eyed as having all the Parts and Powers of Nature in his Hands, both angelic and elementary ; as well as human, and using each according to his sovereign Pleasure. And this is evidently one Way
" of

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“ of working out Salvation for his People, *viz.* by
“ exciting, guiding, and strengthening them in
“ the Choice, and Use of proper Means for their
“ Deliverance; and crowning their Endeavours
“ with Success.” And in this Case it is the Duty
of a People, as one observes, to exert themselves in
turning and praying to him, contriving, fortifying,
fighting and trusting in him altogether: And when
delivered, to ascribe to him the Glory for strengthen-
ing, guiding and succeeding them.---And in these
Ways it is plain God has been helping us. God
has raised up, qualified, disposed and succeeded In-
struments for our Deliverance. While, therefore,
we are celebrating the Praises of the Lord on this
Occasion, we are not to forget the Kindness of
Heaven, in continuing the Life, and prospering the
Reign of King GEORGE II. a Friend to the Pro-
testant Cause; a Friend to his Subjects in general,
and a Friend and Father to *America* in particular.
Among the Favours of this Sort, we may, with great
Satisfaction mention the very worthy and honourable
Secretary PITT, who has manifested the greatest
Steadiness, Resolution, Probity and Friendship
with Respect to this Land: Who has had more es-
pecially the directing and planning our military
Operations, as also the appointing and commission-
ing Men, to carry them into Execution; and under
whose

whose wise Administrations and Appointments, so great and so glorious Things, have been done for us.---And among the Instruments of our Deliverance we may mention with distinguishing Honour, an *Amberst*, a *Boscawen*, a *Wolfe*, a *Forbes*, a *Saunders*, a *Monckton*, a *Townsend*, a *Murray*, a *Prideaux*, a *Barrington*, an *Haviland*, with many other brave Men from *Europe* & of *America*, who have jeopardised their Lives in the high Places of the Field, and shewn their Valour in the Face of the greatest Dangers, to rescue this People from impending Ruin.--- These are the Instruments in the Hand of God whereby the Snare has been broken that we now are escaped from. “ This is the Lord’s Doing, it is marvellous in our Eyes.” The Lord has raised up, sent forth and prospered these great Warriors, and the brave Troops under their Command, he has ordered all Circumstances well, and crowned their Enterprises with Success. Whereas God could easily have blatted our Undertakings, by dividing our Counsels, or confounding our Schemes : He could easily, by Sickness or Scarcity, have rendered it impossible for our Armies to have gone forward ; or by Storms and Tempests scattered and disabled our Fleets, and caused even the Stars in their Courses to have fought against us, as they did against *Sisera* : For he hath the elementary as well as rational

World

24. A Thanksgiving Sermon for

World at his Command; which is exemplified in the Shipwreck of the Apostle *Paul*; and painted to the Life by *Æneas*, when, under the Displeasure of *Æolus* loud Thunder rocked the Poles of Heaven, and glaring Lightning streak'd the Skies, and rolling Billows threatened instant Death.

But the Lord has been on our Side, he has marched at the Head of our Troops, and through God they have done valiantly. And notwithstanding the Worth of the Instruments that have been employed, yet we must say as in *Psalms* xliv, 3. with a little Variation. We got not the Land in Possession by our own Sword, neither did our own Arm save us; but thy right Hand, and thine Arm, and the Light of thy Countenance, because thou hadst a Favour unto us. Thus we see how far or in what Senses our present Escape is to be attributed to God.

Wherefore, we pass to consider

Fourthly, How great an Occasion of Joy and Thanksgiving our late Victories over our Enemies must be to us. “If it had not been the Lord who was on our Side, when Men rose up against us, then they had swallowed us up.” Now the great Reason we have for Joy, may best appear, by considering what had been our Case to an Eye of Reason in a very little Time, had our military Affairs taken a contrary Turn.---We have been in very visible Danger.

Danger. And, "Had not the Lord been for us,
 " by this Time we might been subjected to the
 " worst of Bondage, Oppression and Ruin; by the
 " politick, ambitious, and cruel Enemy we have
 " been at War with; and who, for some Time
 " held the Terms of Peace; who were elated with
 " continued Successes, and actuated by Principles
 " which admit of no Restraints but that of superior
 " Force; no, not in the greatest Cruelties and Bar-
 " barities; and most horrid Injustice, Falsehood,
 " and Perjury." If God had suffered them to go
 on according to their Beginning, and our sad Pro-
 spect's three Years ago; instead of calling *Canada*
 our own, we had been driven into the Sea, accord-
 ing to their Plan. We had, by this Time, been sub-
 jected to *French* Power and Government, which is
 arbitrary and cruel: These had become the Pro-
 vinces of *France*; then we had been stripp'd of every
 Thing dear to us, and had been oblig'd to submit
 to Servitude and Chains. If popish Power had
 prevail'd, we must have bid adieu to our Rights and
 Privileges, Liberties and Properties, our dear Coun-
 try, and what is more, our holy Religion, we had
 been made Slaves in our native, or in some distant
 Land. What could have been too much for the
 unbridled Rage of those, who have discovered so
 much Cruelty in their Temper already; of those

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who

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who can sport themselves with the Miseries of Men, and make the inhuman Butchery of innocent Babes, the awful Spectacle of their fond Parents; and the Distresses of Parents, the affecting Entertainment of their loving Children?

These are the People under whose Power we might have been brought, the Thought of which is shocking: Instruments of Cruelty are in their Habitations; O my Soul come not thou into their Secret, unto their Assembly mine Honour, be not thou united. Now is not the Idea of these Things so horrid, that even the Hope of Deliverance is a Happiness? How much rather than to be actually freed from them, and even the Danger of them? and, how much more still, when we find we are introduced into a free, safe, and more extensive Enjoyment of our Privileges, both religious and civil? And when a Way is made for the Growth of our *North-American* Colonies, and a Door so evidently opened for the Propagation of the Gospel, and planting of Churches in that Part of our Land, which hitherto has been filled with Habitations of Cruelty? Surely, all the Friends of *Zion* will rejoice in the Prospect of so glorious a Spread of the Redeemer's Kingdom. We have, verily, Reason to join with *Moses* and *Israel*, and sing, the Lord is our Strength and Song, and he is become our Salvation, he is our
God,

God, and we will prepare him an Habitation, our Fathers God and we will exalt him. The Lord has been working Wonders for us, and has opened the Way for great Things to be done for Mens spiritual Interests, as well as worldly. Shall not the Wilderness now become a Fruitful Field?

Is not the Lord about to open Rivers in high Places, and Fountains in the Midst of the Valleys, to make the Wilderness a Pool of Water, and the dry Land Springs of Water? Our Case seems to be something like that of *Judab*, when deliver'd from their Enemies, especially the *Assyrians*, to which the Prophet refers, when he says, the Wilderness and the solitary Place shall be glad for them, and the Desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the Rose.---It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with Singing. And doubtless the Prophet *Isaiab* refers to Gospel Times, when he says, "Sing, O Barren, thou that didst not bear, break forth into Singing, and cry aloud thou that didst not travail with Child; for more are the Children of the Desolate, than the Children of the married Wife, saith the Lord."

And the Psalmist is understood to refer to the Gospel Church, when he praises the Lord, as in the 113 Psalm, for the glorious Prospect of the Churches Growth among the *Gentiles*, under such natural and apt Similitudes. "The Lord is high above all Nations,

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Nations, and his Glory above the Heavens, he maketh the barren Woman to keep House, and to be a joyful Mother of Children." Can't we now by these Things see that our present Deliverance is great Occasion of Joy and Thanksgiving? Don't we learn the Propriety of the joyful Assemblies of this Day? What Nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all Things that we call upon him for? "We have sown in Tears, but now reap in Joy. We have gone forth weeping, but we are now returning, bringing our Sheaves with us."

It only remains now that we consider

Fifthly, To whom our Sacrifices of Thanksgiving should be offered, and through whom alone they can be accepted.

And now we easily learn from our Text that God must be the supreme Object of our Praise; for it is granted that he who grants Salvation, should have the Praise of it: And saith our Text, "Had not the Lord been on our Side," &c. and again; "Our Help is in the Name of the Lord, who made Heaven and Earth." Those Men who have been the Instruments in the Hand of Providence, to bring about these great and interesting Events, have justly raised their Characters, and immortalised their Names; but we may not be so lavish in our Praises
of

The Conquest of *Canada*. 29

of them, as to forget God that gave them. Let us consider God as the supreme Object to whom Praise be-
longs. And, let us give him the Glory due unto his Name.---Let us offer the Sacrifices of Righteousness, and still trust in the Name of the Lord.

But then let us consider through whom alone our Sacrifices can be accepted, and truly only through him, by whom the Blessings have been received. Wherefore is it that God has been thus kind unto us? Shall we stand amazed at this, and not think of *Christ* who is the only Foundation, and sure Ground of solid Joy? Who has wrought out a far greater Salvation for us, than this we are celebrating this Day? Who, as the Captain of our Salvation, has spoiled Principalities and Powers, and made a Shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. I say, shall we forget this kind Redeemer through whom our late Deliverance has been derived? Surely, in our Devotion we should realize that as he is the only Medium of our Access to God; so through him alone our Sacrifice of Thanksgiving can be accepted of God. But in *Christ* God is well pleased; in him then we have Hopes of Audience.

It's true, the War has cost us the Lives of many brave Men of Importance in the Commonwealth, which in a single View is Matter of Grief, though our Losses, considering our Achievements have still
been

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been inconsiderable.---And some of this Place have still in Remembrance the Wormwood & Gall which have been mixed with your Part of our general Joy.---May such of you be supported under, and duly resent the Hand of God upon you.---But don't let that be the Means of Unthankfulness. Your Friends have died in a glorious Cause, and your other Children live to inherit the happy Fruits of their Services.---May your Day of Mourning be turned into Joy : And gladly join with us in the religious Acknowledgments of this Day.---Remember there is a Time to be born, and a Time to die, a Time to weep, and a Time to laugh, a Time to mourn, and a Time to Dance.---In a Day of Prosperity we are to be joyful.-----Praise the Lord, then, O *Jerusalem*, praise thy God, O *Zion*. Sing unto the Lord, for he hath done excellent Things, ---He hath triumphed gloriously. Let the Saints be joyful in Glory ; let them sing aloud upon their Beds. Let the high Praises of God be in their Mouth, and a two-edged Sword in their Hand ; to execute Vengeance upon the *Heathen*, and Punishments upon the People ; to bind their Kings with Chains, and their Nobles with Fetters of Iron ; to execute upon them the Judgment written.---Let all the Earth praise the Lord.---O Lord, we will praise thee, for tho' thou wast angry with us, thine Anger is turned away, and thou comfortest us. *Amen.*

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