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THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1931

A MODEL OF CHRISTIAN CHARITY.¹

Written

On Boarde the Arrabella,
On the Atlantick Ocean.

By the Honorable JOHN WINTHROP Esquire.

In His passage, (with the great Company of Religious people, of which Christian Tribes he was the Brave Leader and famous Governor;) from the Island of Great Brittain, to New-England in the North America.

Anno 1630.

CHRISTIAN CHARITIE.

A MODEL HEREOF.

God Almighty in his most holy and wise providence hath soe disposed of the Condition of mankind, as in all times some must be rich some poore, some highe and eminent in power and dignitie; others meane and in subiection.²

THE REASON HEREOF.

I. REAS: First, to hold conformity with the rest of his workes, being delighted to shewe forth the glory of his wisdom in the variety and difference of the Creatures and the glory of his power, in ordering all these

¹ Copy, apparently contemporary or nearly so, in the Library of the New York Historical Society; 3 *Collections*, vii. 33-48 (1838), with remarks by George Folsom and James Savage; printed in part in *L. and L.*, ii. 18-20, with comments by Robert Charles Winthrop; and in *Old South Leaflets*, 207. See G. E. Ellis, *The Puritan Age and Rule in the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay* (Boston, 1888), 56-57; Stanley Gray, "The Political Thought of John Winthrop," *New England Quarterly*, iii. (1930), 681-705; E. A. J. Johnson, "Economic Ideas of John Winthrop," *ibid.*, 234-250; H. L. Osgood, *The American Colonies in the Seventeenth Century* (New York, 1904-1907), i. 152-153, 205, 210. Like many tracts of the time, the work appears to have been circulated in manuscript. A letter of the Reverend Henry Jadc to John Winthrop, Jr., written January, 1634-35, during a visit of the latter to England, says, "We shal be further indebted to you if you can procure the Map, the Petitions Cople, the Model of Charity, (also what Oath is taken), Mr. Higginsons Letter, and the Petition to our Ministers for praying for them, made at their going, which is in print." *Proceedings*, xviii. 300 (1887). The copy belonging to the New York Historical Society seems to be one of those prepared for circulation. In one or two instances errors of the copyist make the text unintelligible. Several blank spaces left by the copyist, which we have filled in within brackets, probably represent in some cases words which he could not read, in others references left incomplete in the original.

² This may be compared with the "difference betwene principalltie and popularie" stated in "Common Greuances," Vol. I. 307.

differences for the preservation and good of the whole, and the glory of his greatnes that as it is the glory of princes to haue many officers, soe this great King will haue many Stewards counting himselfe more honoured in dispenceing his gifts to man by man, then if hee did it by his owne immediate hand.

2. REAS: Secondly, That he might haue the more occasion to manifest the worke of his Spirit: first, vpon the wicked in moderating and restraining them: soe that the riche and mighty should not eate vpp the poore, nor the poore, and dispised rise vpp against their superiours, and shake off their yoke; 2ly in the regenerate in exercising his graces in them, as in the greate ones, their loue mercy, gentlenes, temperance etc., in the poore and inferiour sorte, their faithe patience, obedience etc:

3. REAS: Thirdly, That every man might haue need of other, and from hence they might be all knitt more nearly together in the Bond of brotherly affection: from hence it appears plainly that noe man is made more honorable then another or more wealthy etc., out of any particular and singular respect to himselfe but for the glory of his Creator and the Common good of the Creature, Man; Therefore God still reserves the property of these gifts to himselfe as Ezek: 16. 17. he there calls wealth his gold and his silver etc. Prov: 3. 9. he claimes their seruice as his due honour the Lord with thy riches etc. All men being thus (by diuine providence) ranned into two sortes, riche and poore; vnder the first, are comprehended all such as are able to liue comfortably by their owne meanes duely improued; and all others are poore according to the former distribution. There are two rules whereby wee are to walke one towards another: JUSTICE and MERCY. These are allwayes distinguished in their Act and in their obiect, yet may they both concurre in the same Subject in eache respect; as sometimes there may be an occasion of shewing mercy to a rich man, in some sudden danger of distresse, and allsoe doeing of meere Justice to a poor man in regard of some perticular contract etc. There is likewise a double Lawe by which wee are regulated in our conuersacion one towards another: in both the former respects, the lawe of nature and the lawe of grace, or the morrall lawe or the lawe of the gospell, to omitt the rule of Justice as not properly belonging to this purpose otherwise then it may fall into consideration in some perticular Cases: By the first of these lawes man as he was enabled soe withall [is] commaunded to loue his neighbour as himselfe vpon this ground stands all the precepts of the morrall lawe, which concerne our dealings with men. To apply this to the works of mercy this lawe requires two things first that every man afford his help to another in every want or

distresse Secondly, That hee performe this out of the same affection, which makes him carefull of his owne good according to that of our Saviour Math: [7.12] Whatsoever ye would that men should doe to you. This was practised by Abraham and Lott in entertaininge the Angells and the old man of Gibea.¹

The Lawe of Grace or the Gospell hath some differance from the former as in these respectes first the lawe of nature was giuen to man in the estate of innocency; this of the gospell in the estate of regeneracy: 2ly, the former propounds one man to another, as the same fleshe and Image of god, this as a brother in Christ allsoe, and in the Communion of the same spirit and soe teacheth vs to put a difference betweene Christians and others. Doe good to all especially to the household of faith; ² vpon this ground the Israelites were to putt a difference betweene the brethren of such as were strangers though not of the Canaanites. 3ly. The Lawe of nature could giue noe rules for dealeing with enemies for all are to be considered as freinds in the estate of innocency, but the Gospell commaunds loue to an enemy. prooffe. If thine Enemye hunger feede him; Loue your Enemyes doe good to them that hate you Math: 5. 44.

This Lawe of the Gospell propoundes likewise a difference of seasons and occasions there is a time when a christian must sell all and giue to the poore as they did in the Apostles times. There is a tyme allsoe when a christian (though they giue not all yet) must giue beyond their ability, as they of Macedonia. Cor: 2. 6. likewise community of perills calls for extraordinary liberality and soe doth Community in some speciall seruice for the Church. Lastly, when there is noe other meanes whereby our Christian brother may be releued in this distresse, wee must help him beyond our ability, rather then tempt God, in putting him vpon help by miraculous or extraordinary meanes.

This duty of mercy is exercised in the kindes, Giueing, lending, and forgiueing.

QUEST. What rule shall a man obserue in giueing in respect of the measure?

ANS. If the time and occasion be ordinary he is to giue out of his abundance — let him lay aside, as god hath blessed him. If the time and occasion be extraordinary he must be ruled by them; takinge this withall, that then a man cannot likely doe too much especially, if he may leaue himselfe and his family vnder probable meanes of comfortable subsistence.

¹ Genesis, xviii-xix, where the marginal comments in the Geneva version may also be read with profit, as they undoubtedly were by Winthrop; Judges, xix. 16-21.

² Galatians, vi. 10.

OBJECTION. A man must lay vpp for posterity, the fathers lay vpp for posterity and children and he is worse then an Infidell that prouideth not for his owne.¹

ANS: For the first, it is plaine, that it being spoken by way of Comparison it must be meant of the ordinary and vsuall course of fathers and cannot extend to times and occasions extraordinary; for the other place the Apostle speakes against such as walked inordinately, and it is without question, that he is worse then an Infidell whoe through his owne Sloath and voluptuousnes shall neglect to prouide for his family.

OBJECTION. The wise mans Eies are in his head (saith Salomon) ² and foreseeth the plague, therefore wee must forecast and lay vpp against euill times when hee or his may stand in need of all he can gather.

ANS: This very Argument Salomon vseth to perswade to liberality. Eccle: [ix.1.] cast thy bread vpon the waters etc.: for thou knowest not what euill may come vpon the land Luke 16. make you freinds of the riches of Iniquity; you will aske how this shall be? very well. for first he that giues to the poore lends to the lord, and he will repay him euen in this life an hundred fold to him or his. The righteous is ever mercifull and lendeth and his seed enjoyeth the blessing; and besides wee know what advantage it will be to vs in the day of account, when many such Witnesses shall stand forthe for vs to witness the improuement of our Tallent. And I would knowe of those whoe pleade soe much for layeing vp for time to come, whether they hold that to be Gospell Math: 16. 19. Lay not vpp for yourselues Treasures vpon Earth etc. if they acknowledge it what extent will they allowe it; if onely to those primitiue times lett them consider the reason wherevpon our Saviour groundes it, the first is that they are subiect to the moathe, the rust the Theefe. Secondly, They will steale away the hearte, where the treasure is there will the heart be allsoe. The reasons are of like force at all times therefore the exhortacion must be general and perpetuall which [applies] allwayes in respect of the loue and affection to riches and in regard of the things themselues when any speciall seruice for the churche or perticular distresse of our brother doe call for the vse of them; otherwise it is not onely lawful but necessary to lay vpp as Joseph did to haue ready vppon such occasions, as the Lord (whose stewards wee are of them) shall call for them from vs: Christ giues vs an Instance of the first, when hee sent his disciples for the Asse, and bids them answer the owner thus, the Lord hath need of him; ³

¹ I Timothy, v. 8.

² Ecclesiastes, ii. 14.

³ Matthew, xxi. 2-3.

soe when the Tabernacle was to be builte his [servant]¹ sends to his people to call for their silver and gold etc.; and yeildes them noe other reason but that it was for his worke, when Elisha comes to the widowe of Sareptah² and findes her preparing to make ready her pittance for herselfe and family, he bids her first provide for him, he challengeth first gods parte which shee must first giue before shee must serue her owne family, all these teache vs that the lord lookes that when hee is pleased to call for his right in any thing wee haue, our owne Interest wee haue must stand aside, till his turne be serued, for the other wee need looke noe further then to that of John 1. he whoe hath this worlds goodes and seeth his brother to neede, and shutts vpp his Compassion from him, how dwelleth the loue of god in him, which comes punctually to this Conclusion: if thy brother be in want and thou canst help him, thou needst not make doubt, what thou shouldst doe, if thou louest god thou must help him.

QUEST: What rule must wee obserue in lending?

ANS: Thou must obserue whether thy brother hath present or probable, or possible meanes of repayinge thee, if there be none of these, thou must giue him according to his necessity, rather then lend him as hee requires; if he hath present meanes of repayinge thee, thou art to looke at him, not as an Act of mercy, but by way of Commerce, wherein thou arte to walke by the rule of Justice, but, if his meanes of repayinge thee be onely probable or possible then is hee an obiect of thy mercy thou must lend him, though there be danger of loosinge it Deut: 15. 7. If any of thy brethren be poore etc. thou shalt lend him sufficient that men might not shift off this duty by the apparant hazzard, he tells them that though the Yeare of Jubile were at hand (when he must remitt it, if hee were not able to repay it before) yet he must lend him and that chearefully: ³ it may not greiue thee to giue him (saith hee) and because some might obiect, why soe I should soone impoverishe my selfe and my family, he adds with all thy Worke etc. for our Saviour Math: 5. 42. From him that would borrow of thee turne not away.

QUEST: What rule must wee obserue in forgiueing?

ANS: Whether thou didst lend by way of Commerce or in mercy, if hee haue nothing to pay thee [thou] must forgiue him (except in cause where thou hast a surety or a lawfull pleaadge) Deut. 15. 2. Every seaventh yeare the Creditor was to quit that which hee lent to his brother if hee were poore as appeares ver: 8[4]: saue when there shall be noe poore with thee.

¹ Zerubbabel. Ezra, iij; Haggai, ij, with the Genevean marginal comments.

² I Kings, xvij. 8-24; Luke, v. 26.

³ Deuteronomy, xv. 7-11; Leviticus, xxv. 35-42.

In all these and like Cases Christ was a generall rule Math: 7. 22. Whatsoever ye would that men should doe to you doe yee the same to them allsoe.

QUEST: What rule must wee obserue and walke by in cause of Communty of perill?

ANS: The same as before, but with more enlargement towardes others and lesse respect towards our selues, and our owne right hence it was that in the primitive Church they sold all had all things in Common, neither did any man say that that which he possessed was his owne¹ likewise in their returne out of the Captiuitie, because the worke was greate for the restoringe of the church and the danger of enemies was Common to all Nehemiah exhorted the Jewes to liberallity and readines in remittinge their debtes to their brethren, and disposeth liberally of his owne to such as wanted and stands not vpon his owne due, which hee might haue demaunded of them,² thus did some of our forefathers in times of persecucion here in England, and soe did many of the faithfull in other Churches whereof wee keepe an honourable remembrance of them, and it is to be obserued that both in Scriptures and latter stories of the Churches that such as haue bene most bountifull to the poore Saintes especially in these extraordinary times and occasions god hath left them highly Commended to posterity, as Zacheus, Cornelius, Dorcas,³ Bishop Hooper,⁴ the Cuttler of Brussels and diuers others obserue againe that the scripture giues noe caution to restraine any from beinge over liberall this way; but all men to the liberall and cherefull practise hereof by the sweetest promises as to instance one for many, Isaiah 58. 6: Is not this the fast that I haue chosen to loose the bonds of wickednes, to take off the heavy burdens to lett the oppressed goe free and to breake every Yoake, to deale thy bread to the hungry and to bringe the poore that wander into thy house, when thou seest the naked to cover them etc. then shall thy light breake forthe as the morninge, and thy healthe shall growe speedily, thy righteousness shall goe before thee, and the glory of the lord shall embrace thee, then thou shalt call and the lord shall Answer thee etc.

2. 10: If thou power out thy soule to the hungry, then shall thy light spring out in darknes, and the lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfie thy Soule in draught, and make fatt thy bones, thou shalt be like a watered

¹ Acts, ij. 44-45; ijv. 32-35.

² Nehemiah, v. Among the pithy Genevean marginal comments on this chapter one may be noted: "By nature the rich is no better than the poore."

³ Luke, xix. 8-10; Acts, ix. 36-42 and x.

⁴ Bishop John Hooper, famous Protestant martyr, burned at the stake at Gloucester, February 9, 1555. "In his Hall there was daily a table spread with good store of victuals, and beset with poore folke of the City of Worcester by turns, who were served by four at a Messe, with whole and wholesome meat." Thomas Fuller, *Abel Redevius* (London, 1651), 173.

Garden, and they shall be of thee that shall build the old wast places etc. on the contrary most heavy curses are layd vpon such as are straightened towards the Lord and his people Judg: 5. [23] Cursse ye Meroshe because the[y] came not to help the Lord etc. Pro: [21. 13] Hee whose shutteth his eares from hearing the cry of the poore, he shall cry and shall not be heard: Math: 25. [41] Goe ye cursed into everlasting fire etc. [42.] I was hungry and ye fedd mee not. Cor: 2. 9. 16. [6.] He that soweth sparingly shall reape sparingly.

Haueing already sett forth the practise of mercy according to the rule of gods lawe, it will be vsfull to lay open the groundes of it alsoe being the other parte of the Commaundement and that is the affection from which this exercise of mercy must arise, the Apostle tells vs that this loue is the fulfilling of the lawe,¹ not that it is enough to loue our brother and soe noe further but in regard of the excellency of his partes giueing any motion to the other as the Soule to the body and the power it hath to sett all the faculties on worke in the outward exercise of this duty as when wee bid one make the clocke strike he doth not lay hand on the hammer which is the immediate instrument of the sound but settis on worke the first mouer or maine wheele, knoweing that will certainly produce the sound which hee intends; soe the way to drawe men to the workes of mercy is not by force of Argument from the goodnes or necessity of the worke, for though this course may enforce a rationall minde to some present Act of mercy as is frequent in experience, yet it cannot worke such a habit in a Soule as shall make it prompt vpon all occasions to produce the same effect but by framing these affections of loue in the hearte which will as natiuely bring forthe the other, as any cause doth produce the effect.

The diffinition which the Scripture giues vs of loue is this Loue is the bond of perfection.² First, it is a bond, or ligament. 2ly, it makes the worke perfect. There is noe body but consistes of partes and that which knitts these partes together giues the body its perfeccion, because it makes eache parte soe contiguous to other as thereby they doe mutually participate with eache other, both in strengthe and infirmity in pleasure and paine, to instance in the most perfect of all bodies, Christ and his church make one body: the severall partes of this body considered aparte before they were vnited were as disproportionat and as much disordering as soe many contrary qualities or elements but when christ comes and by his spirit and loue knitts all these partes to himselfe and each to other, it is become the most perfect and best

¹ Romans, xiii. 10.

² Colossians, iii. 14. The Genevan version reads "love, which is the bond of perfectnesse."

proportioned body in the world Eph: 4. 16. "Christ by whome all the body being knitt together by every joynt for the furniture thereof according to the effectuall power which is in the measure of every perfeccion of partes a glorious body without spott or wrinkle the ligaments hereof being Christ or his loue for Christ is loue 1 John: 4. 8. Soe this definition is right Loue is the bond of perfeccion.

From hence wee may frame these Conclusions.

1. I first all true Christians are of one body in Christ 1. Cor. 12. 12. 13. [27.] Ye are the body of Christ and members of [your?] parte.

2ly. The ligamentes of this body which knitt together are loue.

3ly. Noe body can be perfect which wants its propper ligamentes.

4ly. All the partes of this body being thus vnited are made soe contiguous in a speciall relation as they must needes partake of each others strength and infirmity, ioy, and sorrowe, weale and woe. 1 Cor: 12. 26. If one member suffers all suffer with it, if one be in honour, all reioyce with it. 5ly. This sensiblenes and Sympathy of each others Conditions will necessarily infuse into each parte a natiue desire and endeavour, to strengthen defend preserue and comfort the other.

To insist a little on this Conclusion being the product of all the former the truthe hereof will appeare both by precept and patterne 1. John. 3. 10. yee ought to lay downe your liues for the brethren Gal: 6. 2. beare ye one anothers burthens and soe fulfill the lawe of Christ.

For patterns wee haue that first of our Saviour whoe out of his good will in obedience to his father, becominge a parte of this body, and being knitt with it in the bond of loue, found such a natiue sensiblenes of our infirmities and sorrowes as hee willingly yeilded himselfe to deathe to ease the infirmities of the rest of his body and soe heale their sorrowes: from the like Sympathy of partes did the Apostles and many thousands of the Saintes lay downe their liues for Christ againe, the like wee may see in the members of this body among themselues. 1. Rom. 9. Paule could haue bene contented to haue bene seperated from Christ that the Jewes might not be cutt off from the body: It is very obseruable which hee professeth of his affectionate part[ak]eing with every member: whoe is weake (saith hee) and I am not weake? whoe is offended and I burne not; and againe. 2 Cor: 7. 13. therefore wee are comforted because yee were comforted. of Epaphroditus he speaketh Phil: 2. 30. that he regarded not his owne life to [do] him seruice soe Phebe, and others are called the seruantes of the Church,¹ now it is apparant that they serued not for wages or by Constrainte but out of

¹ Romans, xvi. 1.

loue, the like wee shall finde in the histories of the churche in all ages the sweete Sympathie of affections which was in the members of this body one towards another, their chearfullnes in seruieing and suffering together how liberall they were without repineing harbourers without grudgeing and helpfull without reproacheing and all from hence they had feruent loue amongst them which onely make[s] the practise of mercy constant and easie.

The next consideration is how this loue comes to be wrought; Adam in his first estate was a perfect modell of mankinde in all their generations, and in him this loue was perfected in regard of the habit, but Adam Rent in himselfe from his Creator, rent all his posterity allsoe one from another, whence it comes that every man is borne with this principle in him, to loue and seeke himselfe onely and thus a man continueth till Christ comes and takes possession of the soule, and infuseth another principle loue to God and our brother. And this latter haueing continuall supply from Christ, as the head and roote by which hee is vnited get the predominancy in the soule, soe by little and little expells the former 1 John 4. 7. loue cometh of god and every one that loueth is borne of god, soe that this loue is the fruite of the new birthe, and none can haue it but the new Creature, now when this quality is thus formed in the soules of men it workes like the Spirit vpon the drie bones Ezek. 37. [7] bone came to bone, it gathers together the scattered bones or perfect old man Adam and knitts them into one body againe in Christ whereby a man is become againe a liueing soule.

The third Consideracion is concerning the exercise of this loue, which is twofold, inward or outward, the outward hath bene handled in the former preface of this discourse, for vnfoldeing the other wee must take in our way that maxime of philosophy, Simile simili gaudet or like will to like; for as it is things which are carued¹ with disafeccon to eache other, the ground of it is from a dissimilitude or [*blamk*] arising from the contrary or different nature of the things themselves, soe the ground of loue is an apprehension of some resemblance in the things loued to that which affectes it, this is the cause why the Lord loues the Creature, soe farre as it hath any of his Image in it, he loues his elect because they are like himselfe, he beholds them in his beloued sonne: soe a mother loues her childe, because shee throughly conceiues a resemblance of herselfe in it. Thus it is betweene the members of Christ, each discernes by the worke of the spirit his owne Image and resemblance in another, and therefore cannot but loue him as he loues himselfe: Now when the soule which is of a sociable nature findes any thing like to it selfe, it is like Adam when Eue was brought to him, shee must haue

¹ The text is here evidently corrupt.

it one with herselfe this is fleshe of my fleshe (saith shee) and bone of my bone shee conceites a greate delighte in it, therefore shee desires nearnes and familiarity with it: shee hath a greate propensy to doe it good and receiues such content in it, as feareing the miscarriage of her beloued shee bestowes it in the inmost closett of her heart, shee will not endure that it shall want any good which shee can giue it, if by occasion shee be withdrawn from the Company of it, shee is still lookeing towards the place where shee left her beloued, if shee heare it groane shee is with it presently, if shee finde it sadd and disconsolate shee sighes and mournes with it, shee hath noe such ioy, as to see her beloued merry and thriueing, if shee see it wronged, shee cannot beare it without passion, shee settis noe boundes of her affections, nor hath any thought of reward, shee findes recompence enoughe in the exercise of her loue towards it, wee may see this Acted to life in Jonathan and David. Jonathan a valiant man endued with the spirit of Christ, soe soone as hee Discovers the same spirit in David had presently his hearte knitt to him by this linement of loue, soe that it is said hee loued him as his owne soule, he takes soe greate pleasure in him that hee stripps himselfe to adorne his beloued, his fathers kingdome was not soe precious to him as his beloued David, David shall haue it with all his hearte, himselfe desires noe more but that hee may be neare to him to reioyce in his good hee chooseth to converse with him in the wilderness even to the hazzard of his owne life, rather then with the greate Courtiers in his fathers Pallace; when hee sees danger towards him, hee spares neither care paines, nor perill to divert it, when Iniury was offered his beloued David, hee could not beare it, though from his owne father, and when they must parte for a Season onely, they thought their heartes would haue broake for sorrowe, had not their affections found vent by abundance of Teares: other instances might be brought to shewe the nature of this affection as of Ruthe and Naomi and many others, but this truthe is cleared enoughe. If any shall obiect that it is not possible that loue should be bred or vpheld without hope of requitall, it is granted but that is not our cause, for this loue is alwayes vnder reward it never giues, but it alwayes receiues with advantage: first, in regard that among the members of the same body, loue and affection are reciprocall in a most equall and sweete kinde of Commerce. 2ly [3ly], in regard of the pleasure and content that the exercise of loue carries with it as wee may see in the naturall body the mouth is at all the paines to receiue, and mince the foode which scrues for the nourishment of all the other partes of the body, yet it hath noe cause to complaine; for first, the other partes send backe by secret passages a due proporcion of the same nourishment in a better forme for the

2ly. for the worke wee haue in hand, it is by a mutuall consent through a speciall overruling providence, and a more then an ordinary approbation of the Churches of Christ to seeke out a place of Cohabitation and Consortshipp vnder a due forme of Government both ciuill and ecclesiasticall. In such cases as this the care of the publique must overway all private respects, by which not onely conscience,¹ but meare Ciuill pollicy doth binde vs; for it is a true rule that perticular estates cannott subsist in the ruine of the publique.

3ly. The end is to improue our liues to doe more seruice to the Lord the comfote and encrease of the body of christe whereof wee are members that our selues and posterity may be the better preserved from the Common corrupcions of this euill world to serue the Lord and worke out our Salvation vnder the power and purity of his holy Ordinances.

4ly for the meanes whereby this must bee effected, they are 2fold, a Conformity with the worke and end wee aime at, these wee see are extraordinary, therefore wee must not content our selues with vsuall ordinary meanes whatsoever wee did or ought to haue done when wee liued in England, the same must wee doe and more alsoe where wee goe: That which the most in their Churches mainteine as a truthe in profession onely, wee must bring into familiar and constant practise, as in this duty of loue wee must loue brotherly without dissimulation,² wee must loue one another with a pure hearte feruently³ wee must beare one anothers burthens,⁴ wee must not looke onely on our owne things, but alsoe on the things of our brethren, neither must wee think that the lord will beare with such failings at our hands as hee dothe from those among whome wee haue liued, and that for

3 Reasons.

1. In regard of the more neare bond of marriage, betweene him and vs, wherein he hath taken vs to be his after a most strickt and peculiar manner which will make him the more Jealous of our loue and obedience soe he tells the people of Israell, you onely haue I knowne of all the families of the Earthe therefore will I punishe you for your Transgressions.⁵

2ly, because the lord will be sanctified in them that come neare him. Wee know that there were many that corrupted the seruice of the Lord some setting vpp Alters before his owne, others offering both strange fire and strange Sacrifices alsoe; yet there came noe fire from heaven, or other

¹ The copyist wrote "consequence," above which a later hand has interlined "conscience."

² Romans, xii. 9-10.

³ I Peter, i. 22.

⁴ Galatians, vi. 2.

⁵ Amos, iii. 2.

strengthening and comforting the mouthe. 2ly the labour of the mouthe is accompanied with such pleasure and content as farre exceeds the paines it takes: soe is it in all the labour of loue, among christians, the partie loueing, reapes loue againe as was shewed before, which the soule covetts more then all the wealthe in the world. 2ly [4ly]. noething yeildes more pleasure and content to the soule then when it findes that which it may loue feruently, for to loue and liue beloued is the soules paradise, both heare and in heaven: In the State of Wedlock there be many comforges to beare out the troubles of that Conditon; but let such as haue tryed the most, say if there be any sweetnes in that Conditon comparable to the exercise of mutuall loue.

From the former Consideracions ariseth these Conclusions.

1 First, This loue among Christians is a reall thing not Imaginarie.

2ly. This loue is as absolutely necessary to the being of the body of Christ, as the sinewes and other ligaments of a naturall body are to the being of that body.

3ly. This loue is a diuine spirituall nature free, actiue strong Courageous permanent vnder valueing all things beneath its propper object, and of all the graces this makes vs nearer to resemble the virtues of our heavenly father.

4ly, It restes in the loue and wellfare of its beloued, for the full and certaine knowledge of these truthe concerning the nature vse, [and] excellency of this grace, that which the holy ghost hath left recorded i. Cor. 13. may giue full satisfaccion which is needfull for every true member of this louely body of the Lord Jesus, to worke vpon their heartes, by prayer meditation continuall exercise at least of the speciall [power] of this grace till Christ be formed in them and they in him all in eache other knitt together by this bond of loue.

It rests now to make some application of this discourse by the present designe which gaue the occasion of writeing of it. Herein are 4 things to be propounded: first the persons, 2ly, the worke, 3ly, the end, 4ly the meanes.

1. For the persons, wee are a Company professing our selues fellow members of Christ, In which respect onely though wee were absent from eache other many miles, and had our employments as farre distant, yet wee ought to account our selues knitt together by this bond of loue, and liue in the exercise of it, if wee would haue comforges of our being in Christ, this was notorious in the practise of the Christians in former times, as is testified of the Waldenses from the mouth of one of the aduersaries Aeneas Syluins, mutuo [solent amare] penè antequam norint, they vse to loue any of their owne religion even before they were acquainted with them.

sudden Judgement vpon them as did vpon Nadab and Abihu¹ whose yet wee may thinke did not sinne presumptuously.

3ly When God giues a speciall Commission he lookes to haue it strictly obserued in every Article, when hee gaue Saule a Commission to destroy Amaleck hee indented with him vpon certaine Articles and because hee failed in one of the least, and that vpon a faire pretence, it lost him the kingdome, which should haue bene his reward, if hee had obserued his Commission:² Thus stands the cause betweene God and vs, wee are entered into Covenant with him for this worke, wee haue taken out a Commission, the Lord hath giuen vs leaue to drawe our owne Articles wee haue professed to enterprise these Accions vpon these and these ends, wee haue herevpon besought him of favour and blessing: [Now if the Lord shall please to heare vs, and bring vs in peace to the place wee desire, then hath hee ratified this Covenant and sealed our Commission, \[and\] will expect a strickt performance of the Articles contained in it, but if wee shall neglect the obseruation of these Articles which are the ends wee haue propounded, and dissembling with our God, shall fall to embrace this present world and prosecute our carnall intencions, seekeing greate things for our selues and our posterity, the Lord will surely breake out in wrathe against vs be reuenged of such a pertured people and make vs knowe the price of the breache of such a Covenant.

Now the onely way to avoyde this shipwracke and to provide for our posterity is to followe the Councell of Micah, to doe Justly, to loue mercy, to walke humbly with our God,³ for this end, wee must be knitt together in this worke as one man, wee must entertaine each other in brotherly Affection, wee must be willing to abridge our selues of our superfluities, for the supply of others necessities, wee must vphold a familiar Commerce together in all meekenes, gentlenes, patience and liberality, wee must delight in eache other, make others Conditions our owne reioyce together, mourne together, labour, and suffer together, alwayes haueing before our eyes our Commission and Community in the worke, our Community as members of the same body, soe shall wee keepe the vnitie of the spirit in the bond of peace,⁴ the Lord will be our God and delight to dwell among vs, as his owne people and will commaund a blessing vpon vs in all our wayes, soe that wee shall see much more of his wisdom power goodnes and truthe then formerly wee haue bene acquainted with, wee shall finde that the God of Israell is among vs, when tenn of vs shall be able to resist a thousand of our

¹ Leviticus, x. 1-2.

² I Samuel, xvi. xviii. 16-18.

³ Micah, vi. 8.

⁴ Ephesians, iv. 3.

enemies, when hee shall make vs a prayse and glory, that men shall say of succeeding plantations: the lord make it like that of New England: for wee must Consider that wee shall be as a City vpon a Hill,¹ the eyes of all people are vpon vs; soe that if wee shall deale falsely with our god in this worke wee haue vndertaken and soe cause him to withdrawe his present help from vs, wee shall be made a story and a by-word through the world, wee shall open the mouthes of enemies to speake euill of the wayes of god and all professours for Gods sake; wee shall shame the faces of many of gods worthy seruants, and cause their prayers to be turned into Curses vpon vs till wee be consumed out of the good land whether wee are going: And to shutt vpp this discourse with that exhortation of Moses that faithfull seruant of the Lord in his last farewell to Israell Deut. 30. Beloued there is now sett before vs life, and good, deathe and euill in that wee are Commaunded this day to loue the Lord our God, and to loue one another to walke in his wayes and to keepe his Commaundements and his Ordinance, and his lawes, and the Articles of our Covenant with him that wee may liue and be multiplied, and that the Lord our God may blesse vs in the land whether wee goe-to possesse it: But if our heartes shall turne away soe that wee will not obey, but shall be seduced and worshipp [*scrue cancelled*] other Gods our pleasures, and profitts, and serue them; it is propounded vnto vs this day, wee shall surely perishe out of the good Land whether wee passe over this vast Sea to possesse it;

Therefore lett vs choose life,
that wee, and our Seede,
may liue; by obeyeing his
voyce, and cleaueing to him,
for hee is our life, and
our prosperity.

NOTE OF HENRY WINTHROP²

Know all men by this presence that I Henry Winthrop of Groton in the County of Suffulke, gentelman doe owe vnto Willyam Vassell late of pritell-well in the Countie [of] Essex the sume of fve poundes of Current monie of England. to the which payment well and truly to be made I binde me my executor and admynistratores fermelye [by] this presence dated this twelce

¹ Matthew, v. 14.

² W. Au. 51.