

For the Right Honourable the Lord Wharton: These.

Cork, 1st January, 1649.

MY DEAR FRIEND, MY LORD,

If I know my heart, I love you in truth: and therefore if, from the jealousy of unfeigned love, I play the fool a little, and say a word or two at guess, I know you will pardon it.

It were a vain thing, by Letter, to dispute-over your doubts, or undertake to answer your objections. I have heard them all; and I have rest from the trouble of them, and 'of' what has risen in my own heart; for which I desire to be humbly thankful. I do not condemn your reasonings; I doubt them. It's easy to object to the glorious Actings of God, if we look too much upon Instruments! I have heard computations made of the Members in Parliament: "The good kept out, the worst left in," &c.: -it has been so these nine years: yet what hath God wrought? The greatest works last; and still is at work! Therefore take heed of this scandal.

Be not offended at the manner 'of God's working;' perhaps no other way was left. What if God accepted their zeal, 'even' as He did that of Phinehas, whom reason might have called before jury! What if the Lord have witnessed His approbation and acceptance to this 'zeal' also, -not only by signal outward acts, but to the heart 'of good men' too? What if I fear, my Friend should withdraw his shoulder from the Lord's work, -Oh, it's grievous to do so! -through scandals, through false mistaken reasonings-?

"There's difficulty, there's trouble; here, in the other way, there's safety, ease, wisdom: in the one no clearness" -this is an objection indeed, -"in the other satisfaction." - - "Satisfaction:" it's well if we thought of that first, and 'as' severed from the other considerations, which do often bias, if not bribe the mind. Whereby mists are often raised in the way we should walk in, and we call it darkness or "dissatisfaction:" Oh, our deceitful hearts! Oh this flattering world! How great is it to be the Lord's servant in any drudgery- -(I thought not to have written near 'so far as' the other side: love will not let me alone; I have been often provoked 'to it by you')- -in all hazards His worst is far above the world's best! He makes us able, in truth, to say so; we cannot of ourselves. How hard a thing is it to reason ourselves up to the Lord's service, though it be so honourable; how easy to put ourselves out there, where the flesh has so many advantages!-

You were desired to go along with us: I wish it still. Yet we are not triumphing; -we may, for aught flesh knoweth, suffer after all this: the Lord prepare us for His good pleasure! You were with us in the Power of things: why not in the Form? I am persuaded your heart hankers after the hearts of your poor Friends; and will, until you can find others to close with: which I trust, though we in ourselves be contemptible, God will not let you do!

My service to the little Lady: I wish you make her not a greater temptation 'to you, in this matter,' than she is! Take heed of all relations. Mercies should not be temptations: yet we too oft make them so. The Lord direct your thoughts into the obedience of His will, and give you rest and peace in the Truth. Pray for

Your most true and affectionate
Servant of the Lord,
OLIVER CROMWELL.