

saw, when he was hanging between heaven and earth? But such a sight it was, as we desire, ye may have your faith in exercise upon a crucified Saviour. I shall give you three parts of his blessed body, that ye would kiss at a communion.

*First,* There are some that cannot kiss his mouth, it is a great act of presumption; but they would kiss his feet, to testify their love; and his hands, to testify their subjection; and his rosy lips that once waxed pale, to testify their communion and fellowship with him. I would say this now, let this bread be a witness against you in the day of the Lord, if ye be not content to take him.

I remember a word of one that was determined in a thing, and he was desired to be deliberate: and he answered, "There need-  
"ed no deliberation in so good a thing." So I think, ye need no advisement to take Christ, ye may take him upon implicit faith; for he will not disappoint you: take him upon his word. Himself make you to do so. Amen and Amen.

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## LETTER,

*Sent from Mr. ANDREW GRAY, when he was upon his death-bed, to my Lord WARISTOUN.*

MY LORD,

IT may seem strange, that after so long interruption of intercourse with your Lordship by letters, I should, at this juncture of time, write to you, wherein there seems to be a toleration of tongues, and lusts, and religion, where many do by their practice speak, our tongues are our own. I am afraid, that sad word be often spoken to Scotland yet seven times more, "That whereas he hath chastised with whips, he will do it by scorpions, and his little finger shall be heavier than his loins in former times." If our judgments, that seem to approach, were known, and these terrible things in righteousness, by which he, whose furnace is in Jerusalem, is like to speak to us, were seen and printed on a board, it might make us cry out, "Who shall live when God doth these things, and who can dwell with everlasting burnings?"

He hath broken his staff of bands, and is threatening to break his staff of beauty, that his covenant, which he hath made with all the people, might be broken. Is it not to be feared, "that the

sword of the justice of God is bathed in heaven, and will come down to make a sacrifice, not in the land of Idumea, or Bozrah, but on these that were once his people, who hath broken his everlasting covenant, and changed his ordinances?" What shall Scotland be called? Lorubamah and Lo-ammi, which was termed Beula and Hephziba, 'A people delighted in, and married to the Lord.' I think that curse in Zeph. i. 17. is much accomplished in our days, "They shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord." Does not our carriage under all these speaking and afflicting dispensations, fighting against God in the furnace, and our dross not departing from us, speak this with our hearts, "That for three transgressions, and for four, he will not turn away the punishment of the covenanted lands?" And this shall be our blot in all generations: this is that Scotland, that in its afflictions sins more and more. It is no wonder then that we be put to our, "How long, how long wilt thou hide thy face?" How long wilt thou forget, O Lord? O Lord, how shall thy jealousy burn like a fire, and we hear the confused noise of war, and rumours of war?

Since God has put it, 'How long wilt thou go about, O thou backsliding daughter? Jer. xxxi. 22. Are ye not gadding about to change, turning his glory into shame, and loving lying vanities? And there are four 'How longs' that God is put to lament over Scotland, and which are most in Luke ix. 41. 'How long shall I be with you, and suffer you?' Is not Christ necessitated to depart, and to make us a land sown with salt and grass in our most frequented congregations? Ay, believe it, ere it be long, these two words shall be our lot, there is that in Jer. ii. 31. 'O generation, see ye the word of the Lord;' when these that would not hear him in his word, shall see him in his dispensations; when all our threatenings shall be preached to our ears. And that word in Hosea vii. 12. 'I will chastise them as their congregation hath heard.' O shall poor Scotland serve themselves heirs to the sins of the Gadarenes, to desire Christ to flit out of their coasts, and to subscribe the bill of divorce, in a manner, before Christ subscribe it? It is like, these three sad evidences of affliction that are in Isa. xlvi. 11. 'shall come upon us in their perfection.' I shall add no more on a sad subject.

My Lord, not being able to write you with my own hand, I have thought fit to present these few thoughts unto you by the hand of a friend.

I know not, I will not limit him, but I may stand within that judgment-hall, where that glorious and spotless High-priest doth sit, with that train that does fill the temple: and, O to be among the last of these that are bidden come in, and partake of that

everlasting peace! O what a poor report will the messengers of the covenant and gospel make, whose image they crucify in their hearts, to whom I may apply these words by allusion, "The morning of conversion is to them as the terrors of death, and as the terrors of the breaking in of the day to the destroying them?" What a poor account will some of us make, both as to the answer of our conscience, and to the answer of his pains taken upon us, and to the answer of his promises, and as to the answer of his threatening, and as to the answer of his commands, and as to the answer of our light? Now, not to trouble your Lordship, whom I also highly reverence, and my soul was knit unto in the Lord, but that you would bespeak my case to the great Master of requests, and my broken case before him, who has pleaded the desperate case of many, according to the sweet word in Lamentation iii. 56. This is all at this time from one in a very weak condition, in a great fever, who for much of seven nights has but slept little at all, but has been kept in a right sad and grievous torment from his hand, with many other sad particulars and circumstances.

I shall say no more, but I am yours in some single respects, I hope, I may say, dying in Christ.

Let these present my respects to your Lady and Children.

F I N I S.