

STRANGE and WONDERFUL
PREDICTIONS

O F

MR. CHRISTOPHER LOVE

Minister of the Gospel at Lawrence-
Jury London, who was beheaded
on Tower-Hill, on the account of
his Religion.

Likewise giving you an Account of
great Wars in America in 1780,
with the destruction of Popery in
the year 1790: And in the year
1795, Religion shall flourish over
all our King's dominions.

To which is added,

TWO LETTERS from his Wife to
him a little before his Death,
with his Answer to her again.

G L A S G O W :

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MDCCLXXVII.



The Strange and Wonderful Predictions of Mr.
CHRISTOPHER LOVE.

A Few nights after he was sentenc'd to be beheaded on Tower-Hill, which was on the 22d day of August, in the year 1651, which was ten days before his appointed time, by the sentence he received at the bar; being one night visited by two intimate acquaintances, or bosom friends, as he himself call'd them; in their private conference they began to complain to him of the cruelty of the times, and the malice and usage of the time-serving brethren, to which Mr. Love answered, And think you this an evil time? No, no, this is the very time when grace and true godliness can be distinguished from hypocrisy; many have followed Christ hitherto for the loaves, and are now turned back because of the roughness of the way, and the sore trial and tribulation met with by others that are gone before them? There are many in London at this very day, who think to go to heaven in their gilded coaches, and have denied Christ's cause before man, (against whom I am now witness) and Christ in his never-failing word has promised to deny all such before his Father and the holy angels, this is the time to discern between him that serveth God, and him that serveth him not; they formerly were my familiar acquaintances in fellowship and sweet converse, I sent this day to have a few words of them here in the prison, but they would not come, for their countenance is fallen, their consciences wounded, they cannot look me in the face, because I knew of their resolution, and was witness of their perjurament. But, ah! how will they look the blessed Jesus in the face, in the morning of the resurrection? what answer or excuse will they have for what they have done? O foolish people! who think to escape the cross, and come to the crown; but I tell you nay, you must all suffer persecution, who follow the Lamb; we must be hated of all nations for Christ's sake, we must come thro' great tribulation, thro' the fiery furnace of affliction, before we can enter the land of joy and felicity; know you not that the souls of those that were slain for the testimony of Jesus, are placed under the altar? Happy, happy are these men at this day, and ever shall be happy, who suffer for Christ's sake in a right and charitable way, thro' love to his cause, and honesty of heart? not thro' pride and hypocrisy, without the root of the matter; to have it said, they died martyrs; these are they who will miss their mark, and those who denied the call, and turned back shall never have the honour to find it. I am now pointed out by many to be in a destitute and forlorn condition; but I would not exchange

exchange my estate, no not for all the kingdoms of the world; no, not for all the glory that's on the earth: I find my Redeemer's love stronger in my bonds than ever I did in the days of my liberty, therefore I hold living here in this world as death itself. I am as full of love and joy of the holy Spirit, as ever a bottle was filled with new wine I am ready to cry out, 'The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me;' but I will not take it upon me to prophesy nevertheless, the Spirit of the Lord causeth me to utter; this usurped authority, now in the hands of Cromwell, shall shortly be at an end, England shall be blessed with meek kings, and mild governments, powerful preachers, and dull hearers; good sermons to them will be as music to a sleepy man, they shall hear but not understand, nor lay the word to heart, to practise it in their lives, to walk by it. O England, thou shall wax old in wickedness, thy sins abound like Sodom, thy voluptuousness shall cry aloud for vengeance; the Lord shall threaten and chastise thee, yet in mercy and love will he look upon those that fear him, and call upon his name; he will spare and save them alive in the days of his anger, when the wicked shall be sifted from amongst you, as the chaff is sifted from amongst the wheat: For out of thee, O England, shall a bright star arise, whose light and voice shall make the heathen to quake and knock under, with submission to the gospel of Jesus; he shall be as a son of thunder in the ears of the wicked; as a lantern to the Jews, to lead them to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, and true Messiah, whom they so long mistrusted; for the short work spoken of by the apostle, which the Lord is to make upon the earth, in the latter age of the world, cannot be far off. Observe, my dear friends, while you live, my calculation of the dates in the book of the Revelation, and Daniel, which the Spirit of the Lord led me into, for the Lord will reveal it to some of his own, ere that time come; for the nearer the time is, the seals shall be taken away, and more and more shall be revealed to God's people; for the Lord doth nothing without he reveal it, by his Spirit to his servants the prophets: he destroyed not the old world, without the knowledge of Noah, he did not overthrow Sodom and Gomorrah without the knowledge of Abraham, I do not mean now, that any new prophet shall arise, but the Lord by his Spirit, shall cause knowledge to abound amongst his people, whereby the old prophecies shall be clearly and perfectly understood. And I die in that thought, and really believe that my calculation on the Revelation by St. John, and the prophecy which St. Jerome copied off, and translated out of the Hebrew language, as it is written on Seth's pillar in Damascus, which pillar is said to have stood since

before the flood, and was built by Seth Adam's son, and written by Enoch the prophet; as likewise the holy precepts, whereby the patriarchs walked before the law was given to Moses, which was also engraven on the said pillar, whereof many Jews have copies in their own language, written on parchment, and engraven on brass and copper, but the alteration of the date makes them to stagger at it, not knowing that the dates were to be altered by the birth of Christ. First, this prophecy is intitled, 'A short work of the Lord's in the latter age of the world.' Great earthquakes and commotions by sea and land shall come in the year of God 1729, great wars in Germany and America 1780; the destruction of Popery, or Babylon's fall, in the year 1790; God will be known by many in the year 1795; this will produce a great man. The stars will wander, and the moon turn as blood in 1800; Africa, Asia, and America will tremble in 1783; a great earthquake over the whole world in 1781, God will be universally known by all. Then general reformation and peace for ever, when the people shall learn war no more, happy is the man that liveth to see this day.

The first Letter of Mrs. Love to her Husband.

Sweet Heart.

BEfore I write further, I beseech you to think not that it is your wife that now writeth to you: I hope thou hast freely given up thy wife and children to the Lord God, that said, Jer. xlii. 11. 'Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive, and let thy widows trust in me.' O that the Lord would keep thee from having one troubled thought about thy relations. I desire to give thee freely up into the Father's hands, and not only look upon it as a crown of glory for thee to die for Christ, but as an honour to me, that I should have a husband to leave for Christ. I dare not speak to thee, nor have a thought within myself of my unspeakable loss, but wholly keep my eye fixed upon thy unspeakable and inconceivable gain. Thou leavest but a sinful mortal wife, to be everlastingly married to the King of glory; thou leavest but children, and brethren, and sisters, to go to the Lord Jesus thy eldest brother; thou leavest friends to go to the enjoyment of holy angels, and to the spirits of just men made perfect; thou dost but leave earth for heaven; and if natural affections begin to rise. I hope that spirit of grace that is within thee will quell them, and knowing that all things here below are but dung

ding and dross in comparison of these things above: I know thou keepest thy eye, fixed upon the hope of glory, which makes thee to trample upon the loss of earth.

My dear, I know that God hath not only prepared glory for thee, and thee for it, but I am persuaded he will sweeten the way for thee to come to the enjoyment of it: and when thou art putting on thy clothes that morning, think thou art putting on thy wedding-clothes, to go to be married to thy Redeemer; when the messenger of death cometh to thee, let him not be dreadful, but look upon him as the messenger that bringeth thee good tidings of eternal life: when thou goest up to the scaffold, think what thou toldest me, it was but thy chariot to draw thee to thy Father's house, and when thou layest down thy dear head to receive thy Father's stroke, remember what thou saidst to me: That though thy head were severed from thy body, yet thy soul shall soon be united to Jesus Christ, thy head, in heaven. And though it may seem bitter, that by the hands of men we are parted a little sooner than otherwise we would have been, yet let us consider, 'tis the decree and will of the Father, and besides, we could not have lived much longer together, and it will not be long ere we shall enjoy one another in heaven. Oh! let us comfort one another with these sayings. O be comforted, it is but a little stroke, ere long thou shalt be 'where the weary are at rest, and where the wicked shall cease from troubling thee.' Oh! remember that though thou eat thy dinner with bitter herbs, yet thou shalt have a joyful supper with Jesus Christ at night. And, my dear, by what I write to thee I do not undertake to be a teacher of thee; for this comfort I have received of the Lord by thee. I hear a warrant is come to the lieutenant, I am ready to think it may be concerning thee, to send thee to thy journey's end to-morrow, and that because they may possibly be hindered if they stay till the day appointed; but I am persuaded, thou art so far from being afraid of it, that thou dost long for the day, which (next under God) to hear of my willingness to die, will be the greatest comfort in the world. I can write no more, but commit thee to the hands of that God, with whom thou and I ere long shall be. Farewel, Farewel.

July 11, 1651.

MARY LOVE.

P. S. One comfort I would have thee carry to thy grave, if ever God did good to my soul, thou wast the chief instrument of it, for I never looked after God till I saw thy face.

A second

A second Letter of Mrs. LOVE to her Husband.

My Heavenly Dear,

I Call thee so, because God hath put heaven into thee, before he hath taken thee to heaven; thou now beholdest God, and Christ, and glory, as in a glass; but to-morrow heaven's gates shall be opened, and thou shalt be in the full enjoyment of that glory, which eye hath not seen, nor the ear heard, nor the heart of man can conceive. God hath now swallowed up thy thoughts with the joys of heaven, but ere long thou shalt be fully swallowed up in the enjoyment of heaven. O marvel not there should be such a quietness and calmness in thy spirit, whilst thou art falling into this tempestuous storm, because thou perceivest, by the eye of faith, a haven of rest, where thou shalt be with Christ the glory of heaven. O lift up thy head with joy, when thou layest it upon the block, in the thoughts of this, that thou art laying thy head to rest in thy Saviour's bosom; which, when thou shalt awake, shall be crowned, not with an earthly crown that fadeth away, but with an heavenly crown of glory. O be not discouraged, when thou shalt see a guard of soldiers triumphing with their trumpets about thee; but lift up thy head, and thou shalt behold God with a guard of angels, his holy angels, triumphing for the receiving thee into glory. O! be not discouraged at the scoffs and reproaches thou mayest meet with in thy short way to heaven; for be assured, that God will not only glorify thy soul and body in heaven, but he will as sure make thy memory glorious upon earth. Oh! let not one troubled thought for thy wife and babes arise within thee, thy God will be our God and portion, he will be a husband to thy widow, and a father to thy children; the grace of thy God will be sufficient for us. Now, my dear, I desire willingly and freely to resign up my right of thee to my Father, and thy Father, who hath the greatest part and interest in thee. Tho' men have separated us for a time, yet our merciful God will bring us together again, where we shall eternally enjoy one another, never to separate more; and let me hear how God bears up thy heart, and let me taste of the comforts that support thee, that they may be as pillars of marble to bear up my heart. I can write no more.

Farewel, Farewel, My Dear, till we shall meet where we shall bid farewell no more; till which time, I leave thee in the hands of a tender-hearted Father, and do the best till I shall rest with thee in heaven.

MARY LOVE.
A letter

A Letter from Mr. CHRISTOPHER LOVE to his Wife, in Answer to two Letters he had received from her.

My most gracious beloved,

I'm now going from a prison to a palace, I have finished my work, I'm now going to receive my wages, I'm going to heaven, where are two of my children, and leaving you on earth, where there are three of my babes: These two above need not my care, but the three below need yours; it comforts me to think two of my children are in the bosom of Abraham, and three of them will be in the arms and care of such a tender and godly mother. I know you are a woman of a sorrowful spirit, yet be comforted, though your sorrows be great for your husband going out of the world, yet your pains shall be the less in bringing your child into the world, you shall be a joyful mother, though you be a sad widow; God hath many mercies in store for you; the prayer of a dying husband for you will not be lost: To my shame I speak it. I never prayed for you at liberty, as I have done in prison. I cannot write much, but I have a few practical counsels to leave with you, viz.

1st, Keep under a sound, orthodox, soul-searching ministry. Oh! there are many deceivers gone out into the world, but Christ's sheep know his voice, and a stranger they will not follow. Attend any minister that teacheth the way of God in truth, and follow Solomon's advice, Prov. xix. 27.

2dly, Bring up your children in the knowledge and admonition of the Lord. The mother ought to be a teacher in the father's absence, Prov. xxxi. 1. 'The words that his mother taught him.' And Timothy was instructed by his grandmother, 1 Tim. i. 5.

3dly, Pray in your family daily, that yours may be in the number of the families who call upon God.

4thly, Labour for a meek and quiet spirit, which, in the sight of God, is of great price, 1 Pet. iii. 4.

5thly, Pore not on the comforts you want, but upon the mercies you have, look rather at God's end in afflicting, than to the measure and degree of your affliction.

6thly, Labour to clear up your evidence for heaven, when God takes from you the comforts of earth, so that as your sufferings do abound, your consolation in Christ may abound much more, 2 Cor. i. 5.

Though it be good to maintain a holy jealousy of the deceitfulness of the heart, yet it is ill for you to cherish fears
and

and doubts touching the truth of your graces: If ever I had confidence touching the grace of another, I have confidence of grace in you, as Peter said of Sylvanus, I am persuaded that this is the grace of God wherein ye stand, 1 Pet. ver. 12.

7thly, O my dear soul! wherefore dost thou doubt, whose heart has been upright, whose walking has been holy, &c. I could venture my soul this day, in thy soul's stead, such a confidence have I in you.

8thly, When you find your heart secure, presumptuous and proud, then pore upon corruption more than grace; then look upon your graces without your infirmities.

9thly, Study the covenant of grace, and merits of Christ, and be troubled if you can: you are interested in such a covenant that accepts purposes for performances, desires for deeds, sincerity for perfection, the righteousness of another, viz. that of Jesus Christ, as it were our own alone, Oh, my love! rest thou in the love of God, in the bosom of Christ.

10thly, Swallow up your will in the will of God, it is a bitter cup we are to drink, but it is the cup our Father hath put into our hands: when Paul was to suffer at Jerusalem, the Christians would say, 'The will of the Lord be done.' Oh! say ye so when I go to Tower-Hill, 'The will of the Lord be done.'

11thly, Rejoice in my joy. To mourn for me inordinately, argues, that you either envy or suspect my happiness. The joy of the Lord is my strength, Oh! let it be yours also. Dear wife, farewell, I will call thee wife no more. I shall see thy face no more, yet I am not much troubled; for now I am going to meet the bridegroom, the Lord Jesus, to whom I shall be eternally married.

12thly, Refuse not to marry, when God offers you a fair opportunity; but be sure you marry in the Lord, and one of a good disposition that he may not grieve you, and one of a comfortable livelyhood in the world.

Farewel, dear love, and again I say Farewel, the Lord Jesus be with your spirit, the Maker of heaven and earth be a husband to you, and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be a Father to your children——So prays,

Your dying, yet most affectionate friend till death.

From the Tower of London,
August 22d, 1651. the day
of my glorification.

CHRISTOPHER LOVE.

F I N I S.