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EUROPE'S WARNING-PIECE

OR

GOOD NEWS

TO

BRITAIN.

Giving an account of one Willam Edwards a farmer, near the town of Maidstone in Kent, who was charitable to the poor, his lands producing corn more plentiful than his neighbours, and like a good christian sold it to them at a low price. Nevertheless his wife was always grudging, what he did for the relief of the poor. On the 12th June last, coming home at night, he met a stranger clothed in fine raiment, who desired to lodge in his house, which being granted, he informed the farmer of many strange wonders that would happen this year, that there would be a plentiful harvest of corn, that blood battles would be fought, and then all Europe will enjoy a long expected peace.



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EUROPE'S WARNING-PIECE.

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GOOD NEWS to BRITAIN.

NEAR the town of Maidstone, in the county of Kent, lived one William Edwards a farmer, who was a man of an upright life and conversation, and whom providence for his piety seemed to have a particular regard of, for he was blessed in a great degree, his lands producing every year corn more plentiful than his neighbours. which he like a good christian, not forgetting the hand that gave it, as bountifully sold it to the poor at low prices, when he might have disposed of it, at a double advantage. In short he was so prosperous, that heaven seemed to smile upon him, his corn was double fold, his cattle fed quietly by day, and nothing was diminished by night, a wonderful increase was upon all his store. Nevertheless, was not without his vexations, the greatest was his wife; whose life and actions was contrary to that of her husband's, being of a peevish and churlish nature, always craving and never content, no way^s charitable, nor inclin'd to do good, but gudge'd at all things her husband did for the relief of the poor. A poor widow who had three small children, came to his house one day, desiring the farmer to spare her a peck of corn, she

knowing his charitable disposition and that she could have it cheaper than any where else, which the honest farmer measured out to her, and gave her three large handfuls over, saying, I know thou art poor, therefore, I give thee these three handfuls over, that every child may take the better meal at dinner. The poor widow with a thousand thanks paid the corn; and praying for the prosperity of the farmer, that he might be blessed tripple old the next year, she went home. No sooner was she gone, but the wife of the farmer began to scold at him, wishing that God might take her out of the world, if he continued to be so generous, he would undo himself, and she should come to beg her bread. The goodman to avoid strife walked out into his grounds, and pulling out the practise of Piety, which he always carried about with him, he read in it, that he might put the thoughts of disturbance far from him. Walking and reading, at length he came to a large spreading oak, he sat himself down under it, ruminating upon his past life, and the expectation of death and eternity; and leaning his head upon his hand, he fell asleep, and awaked not, till the moon had darted her beams upon his face, caused him to arise, and guessing it to be late bent his steps homeward; but coming within one field of his own house he spied a person walking down another path, and they happened to meet together at the stile; this stranger, who appeared to be young, was cloathed in white raiment, his hair was white as flax, his coat was a light colour, spangled with gold, his vest of pure purple, his stocking of a delicate green, and every way nicely dressed, as made him appear, more like a Divine than a human creature; and coming up, with the farmer, thus accosted him. Honest father,

If you live hereabouts, pray direct a stranger in his lost way, where he may find a habitation to rest his wearied limbs till morning, it being now the dead of the night. Pretty youth, said the farmer, for so thou appear to me, you have about two miles to Maidstone, where you may meet with Inns for your accomodation.

And to oblige a courteous stranger if you do go with me, I will send my servant to conduct you thither. I thank you kindly replied the stranger, I am weary, and would willingly find nearer rest, which if you can procure me, I promise you shall not go unrewarded. Sweet youth, said the farmer, I fear my habitation is too ordinary for such a guest, but nevertheless, I'll make you an offer of it, did I not fear my wife who is of a turbulent temper, would affront; or displease you. Nothing shall displease me, said the stranger, so that I desire I may be lodged in your house till morning when I must go about my master's business. Why are you a servant? replied the farmer, as for that said the stranger, you shall know e'er we part. Then they went together, and the farmer gave him a hearty welcome to his house, offering him all the civilities the same could afford, he, the stranger refused eating or drinking, only desired a little discourse with the farmer, who granting the stranger's request, they both sat down, and the farmer taking the first occasion, and said, I remember just now you was saying that you was a servant, I would desire to know Who is your master? if it be no offence. The master I serve said the stranger, is a good and gracious LORD, most holy righteous and just, his possessions are large, his tenants many, his servants numerous, his service easy, his wages bountiful, his ways are wondrous, his love is immense, his mer-

cy abounding, and goodness not to be paralleled.

So good and gracious a master, replied the farmer, cannot be too much loved, or too faithfully served. But may I not know this person's name?

That you shall before we part, said the stranger, in the meantime, what do you think of the produce of corn this year? The cries of the poor have been so great thro' the dearth of corn, and my Lord, thro' his wonderful mercy, have relieved some thousands that most otherwise have perished for want of bread; but he never fails in relieving those who with an humble heart address themselves to him.

The good God be praised for all his mercies replied the farmer, I have no reason to complain having had last year a vast increase, whilst other farmers came to great losses; and as the lord was kind to me, I sold it at a cheaper rate to the poor, and I find this year I'm like to have a terrible increase because said the stranger, I find you to be a man of an upright heart therefore, the blessing of the Lord is upon you. I shall here reveal some things to you that will surely come to pass this present year, therefore ponder it well in your heart and make the same known to the world. This year, will be a year of wonders, all sorts of grain will be so cheap, that the poor shall no more complain of the dearth of corn, for wheat shall be sold in the market, for 3 shillings a bushel, corn for 2 shillings, and, all other grain suitable, Likewise, the earth shall abound in her fruits, the sea and rivers in fish, so much that the poor tradesman shall be able, comfortably to maintain their numerous families, the distressed widow, plentifully to please her crying babes, and the little children shall have their bellies full of the poor man's complaint, the widow's cries, children's tears, for the want of bread shall be

no more heard, the Lord shall send such a plentiful harvest as has not been here these many years. The farmers shall gather in their corn with content, the barns shall be filled, and the markets supplied in abundance. The heavens shall smile on the harvest; the honest reaper and the mower shall cheerfully eat the fruits of their labour; and the careful gleaner joyfully pick up the scattered corn: For the Lord hath heard the cries of the poor, and will plentifully feed them. Be not unbelieving for all these things shall come to pass.

The stranger then desired the farmer to be silent and thus proceeded. This sign, yea, the happiness of Europe will begin, by the enjoyment of a lasting peace: but before this comes to pass, we shall hear of much blood shed in the armies abroad; several great towns will be taken, after an obstinate and bloody resistance; after which, a mighty battle will be fought, which will last some hours, and many thousands will be slain; this being the last that will be fought, which will therefore be the more terrible in the end, the enemy shall be routed, and most of their scattered army in their flight shall be cut off. For the Lord will give a compleat victory to the allies, and will cause his angel to go before them with a mighty power, till he drives their enemies before them, as the Phillistines did before David, and that there is no more left to conquer: Then will the French tyrant cry for peace, which will accordingly soon follow; But be assur'd of this, he shall not long enjoy the same for the time of desolation draweth near, when the dullness of his days shall be completed, he in much perplexity and grief shall go to his place. Then will all Europe enjoy the felicity of a long expected peace, the clashing of swords the noise of guns, and the cries of soldiers shall no more be heard.

The merchants shall in safety traffick to foreing nations to bring home their commodities to enrich this land. All trading will flourish, and there will be a general joy in the face of all, for the plenty of all things: for the Lord will bless the land once more, and try if the people will remember the Lord their God who relieved them in the day of trouble, even when there was a scarcity of corn, all trading dead, and the bloody sword drawn in the field, threatening ruin and destruction to all the princes in Europe. Let Britain never forget its calamities, and the mighty arm that delivered them; This said the farmer, will be the joyfullest time that Britain ever yet saw.

The Lord of heaven be praised for his marvellous doings, said the farmer, but gentle youth, now thou hast told me this, pray give me a sign, that I may know who is the master you serve and grant me one testimony more, to satisfy my yet doubting spirits.

As for the master I serve, said the youth he has many names, but if thou wilt then look in the glass when I am gone, thou wilt find a sign in thy forehead, by which thou may know who he is. And further to confirm, that all that I have said is true, go up stairs to thy chamber, and thou shalt there find thy wife dead in her bed, of the swelling distemper in her throat.

Upon which the farmer in great surprizes, running up stairs, found it true as the stranger had said, and coming down stairs again found he was gone, then being more surprized then before, he went to the glass and to his great astonishment, found a cross upon his forehead, which, when he beheld he cried out. Lord I believe, help thy servants unbelief. This made him think this fair stranger was an angel, who had told him all these wonders, upon which he praised the Lord and blessed his name for evermore. Then he call'd his

servants about him, and sent for several of his neighbours, to whom he related all that happened to him and shewed the cross on his forehead, to confirm that what he had said was true; which they endeavoured to wipe out, but it could not be done; nevertheless, in some few hours after many had seen it it dwindled away till it was invisible.

This wonder happened the 12 of June last, at night, and the truth thereof, is attested by several of William Edward's neighbours, whose names are hereunto annexed, viz.

WILLIAM GOLD, minister,

ANDREW HAILS.

ELIAS HELL.

STEPHEN SHEPHERD.

WILLIAM HUNT.

JOHN PERKINS.

I N I S.