work of his ſpirit, to him who holdeth the ſeven ſtars in his right hand, that you may be keept ſpotleſſe till the day of Jeſus our Lord. I am.

From Irwing being on my Iourney to Chriſts palace in Aberden Auguſt 4. 1636.

Your Brother in affliction in our ſweet Lord Jeſus, S. R.

To his Parochiners. (2)

DEarly beloved, & longed for in the Lord, my crown & my joy in the day of Chriſt: Grace be to you, and peace, from God our father, and our Lord Jeſus Chriſt. I long exceedingly to know, if the oft-ſpoken-of match betwixt you & Chriſt holdeth; and if you follow on to know the Lord. My day thoughts, and my night thoughts are of you, while ye ſleep, I am afraid of your ſouls that they be off the rock: next to my Lord Jeſus, and this fallen kirk, ye have the greateſt share of my ſorrow, and alſo of my joy; ye are the matter of the tears, care, fear, and daily prayers of an oppreſſed priſoner of Chriſt: as I am in bonds for my high and lofty one, my Royall and princely maſter, my Lord Jeſus; ſo I am in bonds for you, for I ſhould have ſleeped in my warme neſt, & kept, the fat world in my armes, and the cords of my tabernacle ſhould have been faſtned more ſtrongly, I might have ſung an *Evangel of Eaſe* to my ſoul and you for a time, with my brethren, the ſons of my mother, that were angry at me, & have thruſt me out of the vineyard, if I ſhould have been broken and drawn on to mire you the Lords flock; & to cauſe you eat paſtures troden upon with mens feet, and to drink foul and muddie waters: But truly the almighty was a rerror to me, & his fear made me afraid. O my Lord judge if my miniſtry be not deare to me, but not ſo dear by many degrees, as Chriſt Jeſus my Lord: God knoweth the heavie, & ſad Sabbaths I have had ſince I laid down at my Maſters feet my two shepherds ſtaves, I have been often ſaying as it is writen, Lam. 3: 52. *my enemies chaſed me ſore like a bird without cauſe, they have cut off my life in the*

dungeon & cast a ſtone upon me: for next to Chriſt, I had but one joy, the apple of the eye of my delights, *to preach Chriſt my Lord*, and they have violently plucked that away from me, & it was to me like the poor mans one eye, & they have put out that eye, and quenched my light in the inheritance of the Lord; but my eye is toward the Lord; I know I ſhall ſee the ſalvation of God, and that my hope ſhall not alwayes be forgotten; And my ſorrow ſhall want nothing to compleat it, and to make me ſay, *what availeth it me to live?* if ye follow the voice of a ſtranger, of one that cometh in to the sheepfold not by Chriſt the door, but climbeth up another way, if the man build his hay and ſtuble upon the golden foundation, *Chriſt Jeſus* already laid among you, & ye follow him, I aſſure you the mans work ſhall burn & never bide Gods fire, and ye & he both ſhall be in danger of everlaſting burning, except ye repent. O if any pain, any ſorrow, any loſſe that I can ſuffer for Chriſt, and for you were laid in pledge to buy Chriſts love to you, and that I could lay my deareſt joyes, next to Chriſt my Lord in the gap, betwixt you & eternall deſtruction! O if I had paper as broad as heaven and earth, and inke as the ſea, and all the rivers and fountaines of the earth, & were able to write the love, the worth, the excellency, the Sweetneſſe, and due praiſes of our deareſt, and faireſt welbeloved; and then if ye could read & underſtand it! what could I want if my miniſtry among you, ſhould make a marriage between the little bride in that bounds, & the bridegroom? O how rich a priſoner were I, if I could obtaine of my Lord (before whom I ſtand for you) the ſalvation of you all! O What a prey had I gotten to have you catched in Chriſts net! O then I had caſt out my Lords lines & his net with a rich gain! O then wel-wared pained breaſt and ſore back, and a craſed body, in ſpeaking early and late to you! my witneſſe is above, your heaven would be two heavens to me, & the ſalvation of you all, as two ſalvations to me, I would ſubſcribe a ſuſpenſion, and a friſting of my heaven, for many hundred yeers, (according to Gods good pleaſure) if ye were ſure in the upper lodging, in our fithers houſe before me. I take to witneſſe heaven and earth againſt you, I take

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