

Anno 1555. February.

ther for lacke of ability, or els through distaunce of place, power and oportunitie of helping one another doe fayle: yet wonderfull is the working of Gods children through the spirite of prayer, as wherby they fetch all heauenly influence fro Christ theyr celestially head by his spirite, to be measured feuerally as maye serue to the mayntenance of the whole body.

Thus doth our faythfull prayer which we make one for another, distribute and icater Gods bountifull blessings both ghostly and bodely, when ordinary ability lacketh, and when the arme may not reach forth such Gods riches. According herunto I well perceiue and vnderstand your readines to do good vnto all, and especially I haue experience of your readye good will towards me in your hartye desire, to stretch out your helping hand to relieue my lacke, and of your helpe to be extended to me in the other: spirituall sort, and of your good prayer, I doubt not: as I also ther in assure you of my helpe, being all that I may do, & yet the same not so much as I would do.

My need concerning bodely necessaries, is as yet furnished by Gods prouision, so that I am not driue to any extremity wherfore to be burdenous to you; as your gentle beneuolence prouoketh me, the Lord reward you therefore. If God make me worthy to be his witness at this present, in geuing this corruptible body to burne for the testimony of his truth, it is enough for me to say vnto you that I haue a poore wife and childe whom I loue in the Lord, and whome I know for my sake you will tender when I am departed hence. &c.

**An other Letter to Maystres Lucy Harrington.**

**G**race and mercy. &c. It happeneth oftentimes that abundance of matter bringeth with it much vehemency of frendly affection, maketh men dumbe; and euen then chiefly when there is most eger purpose of speaking, silence doth suppress, and causeth the party so affected, vnprefectly to expresse that he goeth about to utter. Such impediment by much matter mingled with feruency of affection, feelesome times in my selfe, letting the utterance either by tongue or writing, of the abundance of the hart. The loue of our most gracious God and heauenly Father bestowed vpon vs in the merites of Christ our Saviour, who may by conceipt of minde comprehend, passing in deed al vnderstanding: much lesse may the same by any meanes be expressely vttered. And as suche heauenly blessings which by fayth we fetch from aboue, be inexplicable: so is it hard to viter, when the faythfull are set on fire by loue, they readines to reach forth and to geue by charity, as by fayth they haue receiued. But (alas) we cary this treasure in earthen vessels. Many times fayth is feeble, and then loue loseth her seruor. I say we therefore, Lord increase our fayth, and loue forthwith will be on fire. And innumerable thanks be geuen vnto our God, who in our Christ hath bestowed vpon vs the first frutes of his spirite, who cryeth in our hartes Abba Father. And (as S. Paule sayth) seeing we haue the same spirit of fayth, according as it is written: I beleueed and therefore haue I spoken: we also beleue and therefore we speak: Yea God knoweth this spirit putteth in vs a minde to speake, but in attempting thereof, we are dzinen to Moyses to say: O Lord, I am slow mouthed and of vncircumcised lippes: & with Jeremy: O Lord I cannot speake.

Albeit that this infancie restraineth the opening of such abundance of hart in my tender Christian duety to be declared towards you, yet I beseech you let this be settled in your vnderstanding, that as S. Paule expresth vnto his Corinthians that they were in his hart eyther to liue or to dye, with many other such sayings vttered vnto them; and the Galathians, expresth his vehement affection towards them: so in some part I would be like affected towards all Gods children, and especially towards you who I know in Christ, and to whom I will not say, how much I am indebted. I thank you for your great frendshipp and tender good will towards my wife: yea that good gracious God recompence you, which may woorthely with the more counterwaight the same, and fulfill that which lacketh of thankfull duety in vs. And because of that which heretofore I haue conceiued of you and of your more then naturall loue towards me and mine: I make my selfe thus bold to say this burde vpon you, euen the care and charge of my sayd poore wife I meane, to be vnto her a mother & mistres to rule and direct her by your discreet counsell. I know she conceiuech of you the same that I do, & is thankfull vnto God with me for such a frend; and therefore I beseech you euen for Christs sake, put neuer from you this frendly charge ouer her, whether I liue longer or shortly depart. But to charge you other wise, thanks be to God, neither I neither she haue any such extreme need: if we had I would be as bold with you as mine owne mother. I beseech you geue my hartly salutations vnto M. Fitzwilliams

and my good Lady, with thanks also for my poore wife and child, the Lord recompence them.

Laurence Saunders.

Furthermoze as touching his fatherly care & affection to his wife and his litle child, the same is liuely set forth in an other letter, which he did write to his wife: wherby he admonished her, that she should not resort much to the prison, where he was, for daunger of trouble that might ensue, the tenour of whose letter here foloweth.

**An other letter to his wife with a certayne remembrance to M. Harrington and M. Hurland.**

**G**race and comfort. &c. Wife you shall do best not to come often vnto the Grate where the Porter may see you. Putte not your selfe in daunger where it needs not: you shall I think, shortly come farr enough into daunger by keeping fayth and a good conscience: which (deare wife) I trust you do not flake to make reckoning and account vpon by exercising your inward man in meditation of Gods most holy word, being the sustenance of the soule, and also by geuing your selfe to habie prayer: for these two things be very meanes how to be made members of our Christ meet to inherite his kingdom.

Do this (deare wife) in earnest, and not leauing off, and so we two shall with our Christ and all his chosen children, enioye the mery world in that euerlasting immortality, wheras here will nothing els be found but extreme misery, euen of them which most greedely seeke this worldlye wealth: and so, if we two continue Gods children graffed in our Christ, the same Goddes blessing which we receiue, shall also settle vpon our Samuel. Though we do shortly depart hence and leaue the poore Infant (to our seeming) at all aduentures, yet shall he haue our gracious God to be his God: for so hath he sayd and he cannot lye: I will be thy God (sayth he) and the God of thy seed. Yea if you leaue him in the wilderness destitute of all helpe, being called of God to do his wil either to dye for the confession of Christ, either any worke of obedience: that God which heard the crye of the litle poore infant of Agar Saraes handmayden and did succour it, wil do the like to the child of you or any other fearing him and putting your trust in him. And if we lacke fayth (as we do in deede many times) let vs call for it and we shall haue the increase both of it and also of any other good grace needefull for vs: and be mery in GOD, in who also I am very mery and ioyfull. O Lord what great cause of reioycing haue we, to thinke vpon that kingdom which he voucheth safe for his Christs sake, freely to geue vs, forsaking our selues and folowing him? Deare wife this is truly to follow him, euen to take vp our crosse and followe him; and then as we suffer with him, so shall we raigne with him euerlastingly. Amen. Shortly, Shortly, Amen.

**An other letter to his wife, to Mayster Robert Harrington, M. Hurland. &c.**

**G**race and comfort, &c. Deare wife reioyce in our gracious God, and his our Christ, and geue thanks most humbly and hartely to him for this dayes worke, that in any part I most vnwoorthy wretch should be made worthy to beare witness vnto his euerlasting verity, which Antichrist with his, by mayne force (I perceiue) and by most impudēt pride and boasting, wil go about to suppress. Remember God alway my deare wife, and so shal gods blessing light vpon you and our Samucl. Remember alway my wordes for Christs sake: be mery and grudge not agaynst God, and pray, pray. We be al mery here thanks be vnto God, who in his Christ hath geue vs great cause to be mery, by who he hath prepared for vs such a kingdom, and doth and will geue vnto vs some litle taste thereof, euen in this life, and to all such as are desirous to take it. Blessed (sayth our Christ) be they which hunger and thirst after righteousness: for such shall be satisfied. Let vs goe, yea let vs run to seeke such treasure, and that with whole purpose of hart to cleaue vnto the Lord, to finde suche riches in his heauenly word through his spirite obteyned by prayer. My deare frendes and Brethren Mayster Harrington and Mayster Hurland, pray, pray. Spiritus quidem promptus est; caro autem infirma. That is. The spirite is ready, but the fleshe is weake. When I looke vpon my selfe, quid ego stupidus & attonitus habeo quod dicam, nisi illud Petri, exi a me Domine, quia homo peccator sum. Being astonished and confounded, what haue I els to say, but those wordes of Peter: Lorde goe from me: for I am a sinfull man? But then feeles I that sweete comforte: Lucerna pedibus meis verbum Domini, lumen semitis meis, & hæc mea est consolatio in humilitate mea. i. The word of the Lorde is a Lanterne to my feete, and alight vnto my pathes: and this is my comfort in my trouble. When waite I bolde with the same Peter to say: Domine ad quem ibimus? verba vitæ æternæ habes. i. Lord to whom shall we goe

An other letter of M. Saunders to his wyfe.

Care of children in tyme of necessitye ought to be left to God who will not see the forsaken.

What it is to follow Christ.

An other letter of M. Saunders to his wyfe & other frendes.

Math. 26.

Luke. 5. Psal. 119.

John. 6.

John. 15.

Prayer distributeth Gods blessings from one to another.

An other letter of M. Saunders.

2. Cor. 4. Fayth many tymes in vs is feeble.

Rom 8. 1. Cor. 4.

Exod. 8. Ierome. 1.

M. Saunders commedeth the care of his wyfe to Maistres Harrington.