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A

Word in SEASON:

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OR,

ADVICE to an *ENGLISHMAN*.



A

Word in S E A S O N :

O R,

ADVICE to an *Englishman*.

1. **D**O you ever *think*? Do you ever *consider*? If not, 'tis high time you should. *Think* a little, before it is too late. *Consider* what a State you are in. And not you alone, but our *whole Nation*. We *wou'd* have War. And we have it. And what is the Fruit? Our Armies broken in pieces: And thousands of our Men either kill'd on the Spot, or made Prisoners in one Day. Nor is this all. We have now War at our own Doors: Our own Countrymen turning their Swords against their Brethren. And have any hitherto been able to stand before them? Have they not already seized upon one whole Kingdom? Friend, either *think* now, or sleep on and take your rest, till you drop into the Pit where you will sleep no more!

2. *Think*, what is likely to follow, if an Army of *French* also, should blow the Trumpet in our Land? What Desolation may we not then expect? What a wide-spread *Field of Blood*? And what can the End of these Things be? If they prevail, what but *Popery* and *Slavery*? Do you know what the Spirit of *Popery* is? Did you never hear of that Queen *Mary's* Reign? And of the Holy Men who were then burnt alive by the *Papists*, because they dare to do as they did?

did? To worship Angels and Saints; to pray to the Virgin *Mary*; to bow down to Images, and the like. If we had a King of this Spirit, whose Life would be safe? At least, what honest Man's? A Knavé indeed might turn with the Times. But what a dreadful Thing would this be to a Man of Conscience? "Either turn or burn. Either go in-
"to that Fire: Or into the Fire that *never shall be*
"quenched."

3. And can you dream that your *Property* would be any safer than your *Conscience*? Nay, how should that be? Nothing is plainer than that the Pretender cannot be King of *England*, unless it be by Conquest. But every Conqueror may do what he will. The Laws of the Land are no Laws to Him. And who can doubt, but one who should conquer *England* by the Assistance of *France*, would copy after the *French* Rules of Government?

4. How dreadful then is the Condition wherein we stand? On the very brink of utter Destruction! But why are we thus? I am afraid the Answer is too plain, to every considerate Man. Because of our Sins; because we have well nigh filled up the Measure of our Iniquities. For, what Wickedness is there under Heaven, which is not found among us at this Day? Not to insist on the Sabbath-breaking in every Corner of our Land, the Thefts, Cheating, Fraud, Extortion; the Injustice, Violence, Oppression; the Lying and Disimulation; the Robberies, Sodomies and Murders; (which, with a Thousand unnamed Villanies are common to us and our neighbour *Christians* of *Holland*, *France* and *Germany*) consider over and above, what a plentiful Harvest we have of Wickedness almost peculiar to ourselves? For who can vie with us, in the Direction of Courts of *Justice*? In the Management of *Publick Charities*? Or, in the accomplished, barefaced Wickedness, which so abounds in our *Prisons* and *Fleets* and *Armies*? Who in *Europe* can compare with the Sloth, Laziness, Luxury, and Effeminacy of the *English-Gentry*? Or with the Drunkenness, and stupid, senseless Cursing and Swearing, which are daily seen and heard in our *Streets*: One great Inlet, no doubt,
to

to that Flood of Perjury, which so increases among us day by day: The like whereunto is not to be found, in any other Part of the Habitable Earth.

5. Because of these Things is this Evil come upon us. (For whether you are aware of it, or no) there is a God: A God, who, tho' he sits upon the Circle of the Heavens, sees and knows all that is done upon Earth. And this God is Holy; He does not love Sin: He is Just, rendering to all their due. And He is Strong; there is none able to withstand Him: He hath all Power in Heaven and in Earth. He is patient indeed and suffers long; but he will at last repay the wicked to his Face. He often does so in this World; especially when a whole Nation is openly and insolently wicked. Then doth God *arise and maintain his own Cause*; then doth he terribly shew both his Justice and Power: That if these will not repent, yet others may fear, and flee from the Wrath to come.

6. There hath been among them that feared God, a general Expectation for many Years, that the Time was coming, when God would thus arise to be avenged of this sinful Nation. At length the Time is come. The Patience of God, long provoked, gives place to Justice. The Windows of Heaven begin to be opened, to rain down Judgments on the Earth. And yet, with what Tenderness does he proceed? In the midst of Wrath remembering Mercy. By how slow Degrees does his Vengeance move! Nor does his whole Displeasure yet arise.

7. Brethren, Country-men, Englishmen, What shall we do? To-day! While it is called To-day! Before the Season of Mercy is quite expired, and our *Destruction cometh as a Whirlwind*? Which Way can we remove the Evils we feel? Which Way prevent those we fear? Is there any better Way than the making God our Friend? The securing his Help against our Enemies? Other Helps are little worth. We see Armies may be destroyed, or even flee away from old Men and Children. *Fleets* may be dash'd to Pieces in an Hour, and sunk in the Depth of the Sea. Allies may be treacherous, or slow, or foolish, or weak, or cowardly. But God is a Friend who cannot betray, and whom none can either bribe or terrify. And who is wise, or swift, or strong, like him? Therefore, what-
ever

ever we do, let us make God our Friend. Let us with all speed remove the Cause of his Anger. Let us cast away our Sins. Then shall his Love have free Course, and he will send us Help, sufficient Help against all our Enemies.

8. Come ; will *You* begin ? Will *You*, by the Grace of God, amend One, and that without Delay : First then own those Sins which have long cried for Vengeance in the Ears of God. *Confess*, that we all (and you in particular) deserve for our inward and outward Abominations, not only to be swept from the Face of the Earth, but to suffer the Vengeance of Eternal Fire. Never aim at excusing either your self or others. Let your Mouth be stopt. Plead guilty before God. Above all, own that *Impudence of Wickedness*, that utter *Carelessness*, that *Pert Stupidity*, which is hardly to be found in any part of the Earth, (at least, not in such a Degree) except in *England*. Do You not know what I mean ? You was not long since praying to God, for “ Damnation upon your own Soul.” One who has heard you, said, “ Is that right ? Does not God hear ? What, if he takes you ‘ at your Word ? ” You replied, with equal Impudence and Ignorance, “ What, are *You a Methodist ?* What, if he is a *Turk ?* Must thou therefore be a *Heathen ?* — God humble thy brutish, devilish Spirit.

9. Lay thee in the Dust, for this and for all thy Sins. Let thy Laughter be turned into Heaviness ; thy Joy into Mourning ; thy senseless Jollity and Mirth, into Sorrow and Brokenness of Heart. This is no Time to eat and drink and rise up to play ; but to afflict thy Soul before the Lord. Desire of God a deep piercing Sense of the enormous Sins of the Nation, and of thy own. Remember that great Example : How when the *King of Niniveh* was warned of the near approaching Vengeance of God, *he caused it to be proclaimed, Let none taste any thing, let them not feed nor drink Water. But let them be covered with Sackcloth, and cry mightily to God ; yea, let them turn every one from his evil Way ; who can tell, if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce Anger that we perish not.* Jonah 3.

10. Let them turn every one from his evil Way. Cease to do Evil. Learn to do well. And see that this Reformation be *Universal* : For there is no serving God by

by Halves. Avoid *all* Evil, and do *all* Good unto *all* Men; else you only deceive your own Soul. See also, that it be from the *Heart*. Lay the *Axe* to the *Root* of the *Tree*. Cut up, by the *Grace* of *God*, evil *Desire*, *Pride*, *Anger*, *Unbelief*. Let this be your continued *Prayer* to *God*, the *Prayer* of your *Heart*, (as well as *Lips*) "*Lord, I wou'd believe: Help thou mine Unbelief! Give me the Faith that worketh by Love. The Life which I now live, let me live by Faith in the Son of God. Let me so believe, that I may love thee, with all my Heart and Mind, and Soul and Strength! And that I may love every Child of Man, even as thou hast loved us! Let me daily add to my Faith, Courage, Knowledge, Temperance, Patience, Brotherly Kindness, Charity: That so an Entrance may be ministered to me abundantly, into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!*"

F I N I S.

