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## **Knopwood Sermon K1/2**

**Key:**

**Xt = Christ**

**Xtian = Christian**

### ***On the love of our country***

Preached before the Honble Allen Hyde Gardner Cap HM ship **Resolution** of [illegible] – June 1801

Camp Sullivan Cove Van Diemen's Land May 13 - 1804

137 Psalm – 5 verse

If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.

Such was the Patriotic exclamation of the Jews, when, after the conquests of their Country by a proud invader, they had been led away captive, and were insulted, by the cruel taunts of their tyrannic conquerors.

Amid the Grandeur of a city, enriched by the spoils of that country, in which they first beheld the light, & where they had cherished the pleasing hope, that they should die in peace; the unhappy Israelites, discern'd [discerned], when too late, the fatal errors, which in the day of prosperity, had rendered them blind to their real interests. The various assemblage of art, the bold display of genius or of novelty, which gave such unusual fame to the abode of their conqueror, brought all the past blessings of their native land, in painful retrospect before them. They could no longer sit under their own vine, or their own fig tree. Their Children, who had been the comfort of former days, were, in their present captive state beheld with additional misery. The Security, that resigned in the abodes of their forefathers, was not to be found: their very sepulchres had been pillaged or overthrown. The sad devastation of Jerusalem, the various insults of its invaders, when they haughtily exclaimed down with it, down with it, even to the ground, produced a gloomy train of reflections. In this melancholy state of mind, was the towers of Salem, and the banks of Jordan, presented themselves to their imagination. Lamenting the fate of their Country and their own sad Exile from it: by the waters of Babylon, they sat down and wept. Their native land was the continual object of their thoughts. The change of its masters, the affliction of its people, the striking contrast, between its present and former state, call'd [sic] forth the tenderest emotions of regret. While frequent tears told the sad story of their sorrows; upon the willows that shaded the streams, to which they had retired, they hung up the various instruments, which distinguished the Sacred office of the Levites, or had heightened the cheerful, but innocent relaxations of domestic life. In this forlorn condition, they are required by their haughty and insulting conquerors, to express sentiments of joy, to sing one of the Songs of Sion ". As if humbled to the dust, or alarmed at the menaces, which may be supposed to have accompanied this cruel insult; they appear at first, rather to remonstrate in a tone of dejection, at the unreasonableness of such a demand, than to refuse an obedience to it: "how shall we sing the Lords song, in a strange land?" – when suddenly, recovering, as it were, from their late depression, they dis-dain the unfeeling proposal; and break forth, in that burst of affection for

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their country. If I forget thee O Jerusalem! let my right land forget her cunning! Thus threatened by tyrannic power, and languishing under oppression and captivity, they would not disgrace their Country, by uttering the sounds of joy. Jerusalem, though lost, was still the object of fond affection. Their conduct, in this trying situation, offers a strong and affecting example, of that love for our Country, the principles of which, I shall now endeavour to illustrate.

An instinctive regard for our native land, in whose customs, laws, and language, we have been educated, is so blended with the sensations of men, as seldom to be abated by enjoyment, or destroyed (destroyed) by absence. Though professional duty, or other laudible motives, may oblige him to leave it for a time; he looks forward, with delight, to that day, when he shall again return. He loves the place, whatever it may be, where the years of infancy glided insensibly away. Bring the inhabitant of the frigid regions of the North, into the more genial climates of the South; and he will sigh for the bleak mountain, and his dreary cottage.

Another motive for the love of our Country, and of an higher order, proceeds from our attachments and connections; with the advantages which, on comparative view, reason points out, as resulting to those who are its inhabitants. Although the former principle may be more general, we must consider the latter as superior, being the result of reflection. The maxims of the British Constitution, appear valuable, in proportion as they are made the object of our serious attention. Consider them, not only as the Laws, by which you are governed and unto which obedience is therefore due, but as forming a Code, fraught with consummate wisdom; the boast of this country England, and the envy of every other nation. Consider them well, and you will perceive, that they produce whatever happiness and security can be expected from any human institution; and that they possess, in an extraordinary degree, the means of constant renovation, and the principle of gradual improvement. The honest pride, which arises within us, on hearing what arduous struggles, our ancestors made to obtain these advantages, animates the heart to support and protect them. We consider the earth as sacred where these heroes have long slept in death. Their venerable monuments, now mouldering beneath the power of time, are dear to the youthful patriot; who as he hopes by them, exults in these vestiges of his country's glory, and feels an ardent hope, that his name may hereafter be thus enrolled, in the records of its fame.

The untutored savage loves his Country, though it contains little more than the wretched habitation, the trackless wilderness, and the uncultivated waste. But as the progress of civilisation advances, and his rude character becomes lost in the milder customs of polished society; when the

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Heroes at large amid these scenes, which are alternately desolate and inhabited

solitary enjoyment of natural liberty, is exchanged for legal security and social happiness: the love of our Country, gradually displays features more liberal & attractive yet still, until Jesus Xt had revealed the only foundation of all virtue, and taught mankind, that divine lesson for public spirit and private friendship "as behold that men should do to you, do ye even so to them": until, they had seen him shed tears of real patriotism and law been exhorted, both by precept and example to love ~~our~~ their enemies, to bless their persecutors, and to do good unto those, that hated them, this virtue, like all the rest, was vain and imperfect. A real love for our Country, must be founded on the extensive basis of regard for Mankind, which is no where taught, but by the precepts of the Xtian Religion.

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If in the imperfect state of civilization, the inhabitants of this Island, could be thus attached to their Caverns and forests, and, for a succession of years, resolve firmly to oppose the infringement of their liberties; can their [sic] possibly exist the smallest doubt, that their posterity will at all times, act worthy of such distinguished ancestors. Even in a savage, untaught state, England gloried in the name of King - rallying around the royal Standard, our fore fathers displayed a spirit of loyalty, which astonish those, who had conquered so large a portion of the world. Liberty, was not considered as secure by them, without the sanction of the Crown; and consequently a love for their King and Country, equally glowed in every bosom.

We perceive therefore, from the earliest accounts, that in periods, when mankind could judge, without any dread of their opinion being influenced by a baser motive, the Government of the ancient British Nations was monarchical. From the zeal they shew'd to defend it, this must have been a government of free choice, & not of compulsion: adapted to their Character, favourable to the welfare of Society; productive of private and public happiness.

The throne may have been established in other Kingdoms, by the force of arms, and a too successful sword have obtained the sceptre; but in that country, to which you my brethren belong, and whose laws you are bound to defend, there is the clearest evidence, that the throne succeeded the patriarchal state. And was thus established not by military oppression, but by social love, confidence, and harmony.

A love of their Country, must always, for this reason, in the hearts of Britons, be accompanied with an high spirit of loyalty. But this spirit will not be preserved pure & active, unless you carefully guard yourselves against the systems of wicked men; whose restless minds, are continually in search of innovation.

That republican system, which has gone forth with such inveterate violence, is not, as many have imagined, the produce of superior understanding, or of minds, that scorn the fetters of prejudice, of corruption and depravity; produced amid the lax principles, and indolent lives, of a too luxurious people. It is a demon, which has been visible at different periods, in the history of every regal government. When any nation has filled up the measure of its iniquity, we always perceive this republican pestilence, causing for a season, under the direction of heaven, the severest and most bitter punishment. Such was the situation of Israel, when, as Isaiah said, - "It had become a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil-doers; children that are corrupted - then did the Lord kindle a perverse spirit in the mind thereof: to stain the pride of glory, and to bring into contempt all the honorable of the Earth.

Look around on the different Kingdoms of Europe, and endeavour to find the smallest resemblance, to that comfort and security, which is enjoyed in your own. In one the Poor considered as little better than beasts of burden, are scatted throughout its dreary regions. In another, raised [sic] by the madness of revolution, to a situation above their capacity, they involve their country in distress, and render its character detestable. Whilst England placed by nature in a situation, admirably adapted ~~adapted~~ to preserve its inhabitants from any sudden [Illegible], appears the centre of Liberty, to which all nations are attracted. Our native Land contains every enjoyment that this life can afford; and when existence terminates, we all look to it for a grave, where we may rest in peace. Unassuming in appearance, plain and open in their character, sincere in friendship, prompt in offering relief, firm and undismayed in danger, and merciful in victory, its inhabitants form a distinct

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People from the rest of Europe. At the same time that it displays mildness in its government, and impartiality in its laws; while commerce, from all quarters of the globe, augments the riches of the Crowning City, whose Merchants are Princes, whose traffickers are the honourable of the Earth.

If the inhabitant of the barren mountain, feels an attachment to the shed, which during infancy, protected him from the storm; must not the Subject of such a Kingdom, as that we have now considered, cherish a proper sense of its superiority, and thus heighten a Love for their Country, which is common to the human race? Will they not incessantly exert themselves to defend its liberties, to humble any daring invader, to destroy the artifices and designs of the rebellious; fervently exclaiming, amid the din of that mad republican spirit, which now too fatally prevails, if I forget thee, O my Country! Let my right hand forget her cunning. It becomes those, who like yourselves are the National Defenders, to see the blessings you enjoy in a proper light. Possess therefore a true value, for the preservation of English Liberty, and be not deceived by beholding objects in false and unfavourable colours. Let no assertions, which an evil or ignorant mind may make, though uttered with the most solemn confidence, abate a steadfast love for the government you support; lest, when too late, like the captive Israelites, you may set down & weep, remembering the Sion you have lost.

Anxious to maintain those blessings which your ancestors enjoyed, and have bequeathed, with such increase of happiness to their posterity; let every one preserve a love for his Country, untainted and pure: that, when times of unusual danger, demand the united exertions of a nations zeal, with all the disinterested virtues of a patriot mind; in every work that you begin, in the service of your King, and Country, you may go forth with all your heart and Prosper.

On that Alter, which our forefathers reared to Liberty, the flame of Patriotism arises! Around it let every age and rank assemble: the nobles and Rulers, & the Elders of the People, and take that oath, which the genius of Britain offers; We Swear, that we will remember the Lord; We will fight for our Brethren, our Sons, our Daughters, our Wives, and our Houses! And will Firmly unite, in the Preservation and Defence of Her, who Dwelleth, with so much terribleness, in the clefts of the Rock.

Whose Rampart, and whose Wall, - is from the Sea -

Which that we steadfastly protect, God of his infinite mercy grant through Jesus Xt our Lord - Amen