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Letters to the late Incorporated Baptist Church in Haverhill.

Printed in the year 1793, for the author. 20 pp.

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John Hinckley

LETTERS

TO THE
LATE INCORPORATED
BAPTIST CHURCH
IN
HAVERHILL.

“SHOW TO ISRAEL THEIR SINS, AND JACOB
THEIR TRANSGRESSIONS—CRY ALOUD,
SPARE NOT.”

By J. M. WILLIAMS.

Printed in the year 1793—for the Author.



L E T T E R I.

FRIENDS and BRETHREN,

IT is with grief I begin to write on such an occasion—having heard now several times lately that you were endeavouring to get incorporated. The first I heard of it was of your parson's mentioning it at the Rowley Association, but that he was smartly opposed in it, by the Elders *Bickus* and *Stilman*; yet it seems, at length, it is done—A sorrowful event! and you have got that strength you wanted, and the which has enabled the church of Antichrist to do many of her abominations in this way, [the civil law, or civil sword]—by the same so many martyrs have been made to burn at the stake; so many Popes, Cardinals, Bishops and Priests become the greatest men of the earth: So also your church has become a worldly church, being turned likewise into common law, with the worst of mankind, for whom laws are made, and that beautiful Gospel order, which belongs to the holy church of the Lord Jesus, which is not of this world, is now changed for that low, mean, base way which the world is obliged to adopt for criminals.

One of your church has lately said, “that being incorporated was a good thing, for now they could force them to pay *Mr. Smith*, who before would not.” This you must know, is the language of Ahhdod, the language of the world, and of Antichrist.

And truly, the church of Rome and you go one way to work, you have both the same way to maintain your Priests, you have the black staff, the sheriff, and the prison—carnal weapons, which do by no means belong to the church of Christ.

How is it that your good profession has come to this?—Profess to begin in the spirit, and end in the flesh. Your conduct in this affair is a trouble to serious and understanding Christians, and a sin against God.

L E T T E R II.

KNOW you not that the adorable Saviour, since the fall of man, and the depravation of fell nature, and this fell world in which we live, has gloriously attempted to set up the standard of holiness and truth again—which attempt

began to be made, even at the time and place where the fall was transacted.

Do you not know that this standard of holiness, which is in opposition to what satan then did, and our fell world are still doing, is now, and ever has been, held up by his witnesses? —“Ye are my witnesses,” saith the Lord, the Saviour. — And do you not, or have you not made public profession, in and before this poor fell world, that you are some of these his witnesses? Have you not openly and visibly declared that you belong to Jesus Christ’s standard—to his kingdom, which is not of this world, but far otherwise?—Have you not professed to have turned your backs upon the world, to travel to the city of Zion?

You will answer all this in the affirmative—very well. Seeing then, that Jesus is taking the prey from the mighty, and setting up a cause of his own, even God’s cause, here where satan’s seat is, in spite of him and his millions of fell mortals, and all the invisible powers of darkness—How is it you have done as you have? in the name of the Most High, how is it? Do you think that Jesus Christ will fail of this his attempt? Are you afraid of his ability to accomplish what he has undertaken? or is it because his cause is low in a worldly sense that you forsake it? The Jews forsook, or at least would not follow him, because he was low in a worldly view: Is this your case? The circumstances of the affair say it is, and I must conclude so, for I know very well that his Kingdom, as to observation, looks small and despicable. Oh, my short sighted friends, the Lord open your eyes!

Can’t you see as the prophet’s servant? You have professed to see by faith; can’t you see the Chariots of fire, and the horsemen of fire on the tops of the mountains? Can’t you see Zion’s glory, or did you never see it, that you forsake it now in a time of need, in these days of Antechrist? Will you join that which worldly eyes view as the strongest side, and help satan, the world, and the powers of darkness, against the cause of holiness, of Christ and of God?—You have done it; you are incorporated into, or under the protection of the General Court, and turned your backs upon him that is “as the shadow of a great Rock in a weary land,” to be under the shadow of a court. This you have done, notwithstanding all you have professed to see, and all you profess to know. Had you never set out as you have,

