
Wherein is set forth, The Cruel and Inhumane Usage she underwent amongst the Heathens, for Eleven Weeks' time: And her Deliverance from them.

Written by her own Hand, for her Private Use: And now made Publick at the earnest Desire of some Friends, for the Benefit of the Afflicted.

Whereunto is annexed,

A Sermon of the Possibility of God's Forsaking a People that have been near and dear to him.

Preached by Mr. Joseph Rowlandson, Husband to the said Mrs. Rowlandson: It being his Last Sermon.

The PREFACE to the READER.

It was on Tuesday Feb. 1, 1675, in the afternoon, when the Narragansett Quarters (in or toward the Nipmuc Country; which they were now retired for fear of the English Army being in their own Country) were the second time beaten up by the Forces of the United Colonies, who thereupon set themselves to flight, and were all the next day pursued by the English, some overtaken and destroyed. But on Thursday Feb. 3, the English, having now been six days on their March, from their Head-quarters at Wickford, in the Narragansett Country, toward, and after the Enemy, and Provision grown exceeding short, insomuch that they were soon to kill some Chieftains for the Supply, especially of their Indian Friends, they were necessitated to consider what was best to be done; and above noon (having hitherto followed the Chieftains as hard as they might) a Council was called, and though some few were of another mind, yet it was concluded by far the greater part of the Council of War, that the Army should desist the pursuit, and retire: The Forces of Plymouth and the Bay to the next Town of the Bay, and Connecticut Forces to their own one next Town; which determination was immediately put in execution. The consequent whereof, as it was not difficult to be foreseen by those that knew the cutting cunning of those Barbarians against the English, and the malicious and revengeful spirit of thee Heathen, so it soon proved distinct.

The Narragansett were now driven quite from their own Country, and all their Provisions there boarded up, to which they durst not as present return, and being so numerous as they were, soon devoured those to whom they went, whereby both the one and the other were now reduced to extreme distress, and so necessitated to take the first and best opportunity for Supply, and very glad no doubt of such an opportunity as this, to provide for themselves, and make good the English at once; and seeing themselves thus discharged of their pursuers, and a little refreshed after their flight, the very next week on Thursday Feb. 10, they fell with mighty force and fury upon Lancaster: which small Town, contrary to all expectations, neither being Garrison'd as it might, nor the Army being now come in, and as the time indeed required (the design of the Indians against that place being known to the English some time before) was not able to make effectual resistance, but notwithstanding the utmost endeavours of the Inhabitants, most of the buildings were torned into ashes, many People (Men, Women and Children) slain, and others captivisled. The most solemn and remarkable part of this Tragedy, may that justly be requited, which fell upon the Family of that Respected Servant of God, Mr. Joseph Rowlandson, the Faithful Pastor of the Church of Christ in that place, who being gone down to the Council of the Mackelufats, to seek aid for the defence of the place: as his return found the Town in flames, or makes his own house being for oufure by the Enemy, through the disadvantage of a defective Fortification, and all to it confounded: His precious yoke-fellow, and dear Children, wounded and captivisled (as the same evidenced, and following Narrative doth) by their cruel and barbarous Slaughter, A sad Example! This all things come alike to all: None knows whether
The Preface to the Reader.

Dear Reader,

In the beginning, before the creation of the heavens and the earth, God had a plan for his creation. This plan was revealed through his Word, which is contained in the Bible. The purpose of the Bible is to guide us in our spiritual journey towards eternal life. As you read through this book, I encourage you to pray and seek guidance from the Holy Spirit, who will help you understand the meaning and application of the Word.

In this book, we will explore various topics such as creation, redemption, and salvation. Each chapter will focus on a specific aspect of the Bible, providing insights and practical applications for our daily lives.

I hope that through this study, you will deepen your understanding of God's Word and grow closer to him. May the Lord bless you as you embark on this journey.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
The Preface to the Reader.

I am confident that no Friend of divine Providence, will ever repent his time and pains spent in reading over these sheets; but will judge them worth perusing again and again.

Thrice Reader, you may see an instance of the Sovereignty of God, who doth what he will, with his own as well as others; and who may say to him, what doest thou? You may see an instance of the Faith and Patience of the Saints, under the most heart-breaking trials; you may see, the Promises are breads full of consolation, when all the world around is empty, and gives nothing but sorrow. That God is indeed the Supreme Lord of the World; ruling the most unruly, weakening the soft cruel and savage; granting his People mercy in the sight of the most merciless; curbing the lusts of the most filthy, holding the hands of the violent, delivering the prey from the mighty, and gathering together the outcasts of Israel. Once and again, you have heard, but here you may see, that power belongs unto God: that our God is the God of Salvation; and to him belong the issues from Death. That our God is in the Heavens, and doth what ever pleaseth him. Here you have Samson's Riddle exemplified, and that great promise, Rom. 8, 28. verified: Out of the Eater comes forth meat, and sweetness out of the thorn. The meekness of that Gentileman a gainer by all this affliction, that he can say, "Yea good for him, yea better that he hath been, than he should not have been, thus afflicted."

Oh how doth God shine forth in such things as these!

Readers, if thou gettest no good by such a Declaration as this, the fruit will never be thine own. Read therefore, pray, ponder, and from hence lay up something from the experience of another, against thine own turn comes: that so thou mayest through patience and consolation of the Scriptures mayest have hope.

PER AMICUM.

A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson.

On the tenth of February, 1675, came the Indians with great numbers upon Lancaster. Their first coming was about Sunniling. Hearing the noise of some Guns, we looked out; several Houses were burning, and the Smoke ascending to Heaven. There were five Persons taken in one House, the father, and the Mother, and a dying Child they knock'd on the head; the other two they took, and carried away alive. There were two others, who being out of their Garrison upon some occasion, were set upon; one was knock'd on the head, the other escaped. Another there was who running along was shot and wounded, and fell down; he begged of them his Life, promising them Money (as they told me), but they would not hear him, but knock'd him on the head, stripp'd him naked, and splt open his Bowels. Another seeing many of the Indians about his Barn, ventured and went out, but was quickly shot down. There were three others belonging to the same Garrison who were killed. The Indians getting up upon the Roof of the Barn, had advantage to shoot down upon them over their Fortification. Thus these murderous Wretches went on, burning and destroying before them.

At length they came and beft our own House, and quickly it was the dearest day that ever mine eyes saw. The Houfe stood upon the edge of a Hill; some of the Indians got behind the Hill, others into the Barn, and others behind any thing that would flutter them: from all which Places they shot against the House, so that the Bullets seemed to fly like Hail: and quickly they wounded and Man among us, then another, and then a third. About two Hours (according to my observation in that amazing time) they had been about the House, before they could prevail to fire it, (which they did with Fox and Hemp which they brought out of the Barn, and they being no Defence about the Houfe, only two Flankers, at two opposite Corners, and one of them not limbed.) They fired it once, and one ventured out and quench'd it; but they quickly fired it again, and that took. Now is that dreadful Hour come, that I have often heard of, (in the time of the War, as it was the Cafe of others,) but now mine Eyes see it. Some in our House were QBugihg for their Lives, others wallowing in their Blood; the Houfe on fire over our Heads, and the bloody Heaths ready to knock us on the Head if we stirred out. Now might we hear, Mothers and Children crying out for themselves, and one another, Lord, what shall we do? Then I took my Children (and two of my Sisters, hers) to go forth and leave the Houfe: