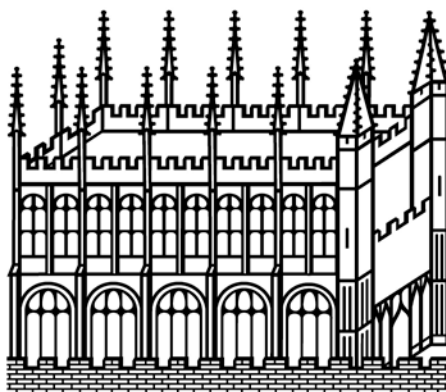




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The Perfect
SPEECH
O F

Mr. John Gibbons,

AS IT WAS
Delivered by Himself on the Scaffold

A T
T O W E R - H I L L,
O N

FRIDAY the 22 of *August*, 1651. being
the same Day that Mr L O V E (the Minister)
was also executed.

L I K E W I S E ,

His Desires to the People ; His Prote-
station touching Religion ; And his true Prayer imme-
diately before his head was severed from
his Shoulders.

*Published by a perfect Copy, at the request, and for general satis-
faction to his friends, and others.*

London, Printed in the Year, 1651.





M. Gibbons Speech upon the Scaffold.

Gentlemen,

I Am brought here to the Stage, where *I* am made a spectacle to God, to Angels, and to Men ; an object of pity and compassion to my friends, where they see before their eyes a man in the prime of his yeers, and in the flower of his youth cut off as an untimely fruit, and as a Tree that burdeneth the ground, therefore they are sorry ; but this is no new thing, it is Gods ordinary way to suffer men to be cast out, that he may receive them to mercy; the poor blind man was thrown out, but he was received to Jesus Christ; the three Children were thrown into the Furnace, but they were received to God; that was the way that he delivered them: Do not stand wondring at Gods proceedings, whatsoever the men be, yet I bless God to eternity; *I* take it well at his hands, though it seem strange; It is Gods ordinary way, and if it be, Christians should not shun any extremity, if it bring them to Jesus Christ; and therefore *I* bless God, *I* come to this Scaffold, to this place, with as much willingness as ever Bridegroom did to receive his Bride : *I* know the passage of blood is but short, and the way to the Crown ; though my head be severed from my body, yet my soul to all eternity shall be joyned to the Lord Jesus Christ ; and *I* in the presence of you all, desire you to witness, that *I* from my soul desire, that the present Power and Court that is set up, have done themselves no more hurt then they have

done me, for *I* am assured that all that ever their Sentence hath done, hath put me in the way that *I* am going; from earth to Heaven, from Friends, and comfort, and creature relations, that of necessity ere long must be left; and it were a great deal of folly to desire that that we cannot keep; *I* am going to receive the end of my Faith, the reward of my Hope, the comfort of my Prayers, and of all the prayers and tears of Gods people; where *I* shall enjoy the Society of all Believers, the sight of God, the fellowship of the Saints, and imbrace God to all eternity; these things none can take from me: Therefore why should *I* desire to keep these things that the providence of God calls for? and therefore *I* need not stand grumbling and repining at Gods Will: And *I* freely submit.

I come not hither to tell a long Story, or to make a discovery of my finnes; the Lord knowes (upon the examinaion of my heart) how many thousands and hundred Millions of finnes *I* have, and *I* desire to pour out floods of Teares for them; and *I* desire that through the Merrit of Christ, the atonement might be made to God for them; from my child-hood *I* must needs say, *I* have been such; *I* have seen a Father buried in the grave, and a Sister, and a Wife, and a Childe laid in the grave, but all that ever *I* could do to this day, could never put my finnes into the grave, with all my endeavors and all the afflictions and mercies *I* have had: It is an infinite comfort, though *I* enjoy nothing else; after this day *I* shall assuredly never sinne any more, nor grieve the Spirit of God any more, nor dishonour God any more; *I* profess, though *I* should not come to Heaven, it is a comfort to me that *I* shall not sinne and grieve the Spirit of God any more; Blessed be God to all eternity, *I* shall be out of the power of sin.

That is not all, but further, since *I* can remem-
ber

ber that *I* set my face towards God ; from my childhood *I* have hedged in my way with thorns , that *I* might go the strictest and straitest way , my way to bring me to the Lord Jesus Christ; it is a wonderful comfort, and blessed be God for this dayes work ; *I* profess *I* would not change my condition for ten thousand worlds: *I* bleis God *I* find the reward and benefit of the prayes of good people in a wonderful manner; they have more cause to go home and seek days of rejoycing and dayes of praise, then to mourn and repine.

In the Bishops time *I* was one that was a mourner, that lamented the time and the State, and desired to shed tears when the Church was under affliction.

And truly, *I* further declare, that *I* have alwayes been and gone upon Gospel Principles; *I* have alwayes desired to apply particular promises to my particular condition : *I* know ten thousand generals will do me no good, onely particular Faith and application will do me good, and strengthen and support me this day : *I* have alwayes ingaged upon pure Principles of Religion to the best of my knowledge, and the utmost of my endeavors; *I* have alwayes ingaged upon those Principles, from those *I* never departed ; and in those Principles by Gods grace this day *I* shall die and come to feal with my Bloud; *I* alwayes owned the wayes of God, when they were most persecuted; *I* think an hundred, nay (*I* may say) a thousand can tell, that *I* did never dare to save my Life, or my Skin , or any thing, to quite Religion, though it were never so much clouded, and despised, and disdained ; *I* do now this day rather a thousand times willingly lay my Neck on the Block; believe it, *I* am a dying man, *I* chuse it, and had rather have it, then injoy the most glorious life and liberty with those that are Betrayers of the Truth of God and a good conscience ; O Sirs believe it, carry it from a dying man :

In the time of afflictions a good Conscience will stand you in more stead, and more comfort, then a thousand worlds: *I* bleſs God more that he now ſmiles on me, then if all the Emperors and Princes in the world did own me.

I have never been without a trembling heart, ſince the Spouſe of Chriſt was clothed in mourning; *I* alwayes thought it my duty, and the leaſt *I* could do, to lie in tears, when the Church rowled in bloud; and the Lord grant that every Chriſtian ſoul may make it his work: It is the great breaking of my heart, that *I* could never get my heart to break enough, to ſee the Church of Chriſt in miſery: Though God have called, and Chriſt have called, and there was never ſuch calling; It wounds my ſoul that *I* could never mourn more for the Churches afflictions; and the Lord keep all that fear the Lord and his Name, keep thoſe from dayes of rejoycing and thankſgiving for the death of thoſe that God owneſ, and will wipe all Teares from their Eyes, and thoſe God accounts their bloud precious: Have a care of being of the number of thoſe that rejoyce over the heapes of the carcaſſes of Gods people.

I am now at the laſt brought to ſuffer death as an enemy to the S T A T E, though my conſcience tells me *I* am a friend to the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, His Church, and Members; and though the Jewes heretofore told *Pilate*, if he did let the Lord Chriſt go, he was no friend to *Ceſar*: Muſt *I* not ſay truly, my Conſcience bids me ſay it in the caſe *I* am in, whoſoever deſires to keep the Lord Jeſus, to keep Integrity of heart, and innocency of life, and deſires to walk in an unſpotted life and converſation, whoſoever deſires to let theſe old broached Heresies go, and draw their ſword for Chriſt, are not theſe declared to be Enemies to the S T A T E, and are againſt them

em that desire to keep a good Conscience ; and if there no Law of God to condemne us, (as the Jewes d) There is a Law found out, and by that Law he ght to dy.

I will not make a discourse of the manner of my Tryal ; there were ten thousand Men, and Angels, yea God himself can witness the hard measure I had.

I am in Charity with all the World, the Lord of Heaven forgive them ; I say nothing my self, only I will tell you what a Gentleman said that was an Ey-witness at my Tryal, that knows all the Actions and Laws as well as any man in the place ; He professed that he saw so much, that he would not haue a hand in my Sentence for all the Gold that could lie in Westminster-Hall. I must say for mine own part, and in my Conscience I believe it, if they do not repent, the Lord will call them to an account for this days work, I believe they have gone against God, and his Laws, and the Laws of Nations ; I believe so, I speak not this from a bitter spirit ; the Lord of Heaven forgive all them that ever had a hand in it, as now I desire mercy when I shall come before the Lord ; I looke upon them as a Company of poor Instruments that the Lord knowes how to deal with, and will call to account ; it will be time enough when they come to ly upon their dying beds : The Lord grant that my Blood may not stand between them and mercy when they put up their prayers, that nothing concerning me may stand in the way of all the mercy that their souls shall stand in need of : Truly, if you will believe me, I would not leave this Scaffold to enjoy all the pleasures that this World can give, I would not change my condition with them ; not with my Witnesses, not with my Judges I would not change my condition ; my Conscience tells me, and so I speak, I forgive them, the Lord of Heaven lay not this great sin
to

to their charge, let all the people of God so pray ; they will one day see what it is to lose a good Conscience ; and that it is better a great deal to have the light of Gods countenance , then to have a Conscience upon the Rack : They will one day see , that there is nothing to be feared but sin and wrath ; and what a comfort and happiness the peace of a good Conscience is, the Lord shew it you.

I am brought here to die for Treason ; for plotting against the State : and this is such a Treason as is proclaimed to all the World ; such a Plot as was never before : blessed be God I am of another mind ; I should appear sadly before God , if my Conscience told me what hath been represented : But I must needs declare my Opinion without offence to any ; It is a pretended Plot, to beget a greater Plot : God grant that it be not so ; a Plot I fear, to destroy all Church-Government, and the faithfull of the Lord and the godly : For other Plots I understand none ; I profess in the presence of God, I know of no Plot, or had a hand in any Plot : I would not for 10000 Worlds be guilty of the blood of any man : I am sensible how many thousands, and ten thousand thousands of sins I have committed , as the number of minutes of one hundred thousand thousands of dayes ; that I am sensible of, and desire to bring them before the Lord to stone them to death, and to pour out floods and tears for them before this that I am to die : But I am put now to appeal to the righteous God, whither I am going, to stand before the Bar of an impartial Judge, that knows the intents and thoughts of my heart, and what all my endeavours have been. I never had any other thought then the honour of the Gospel and Religion , and to bring these precious things into the Channels that the Lord would have them in. This was my desire.





