The History of the Evangelical Churches of the Valleys of Piemont: Political Performance, and the Use of History in the Cromwellian Protectorate

Jordan S. Sly, University of Maryland

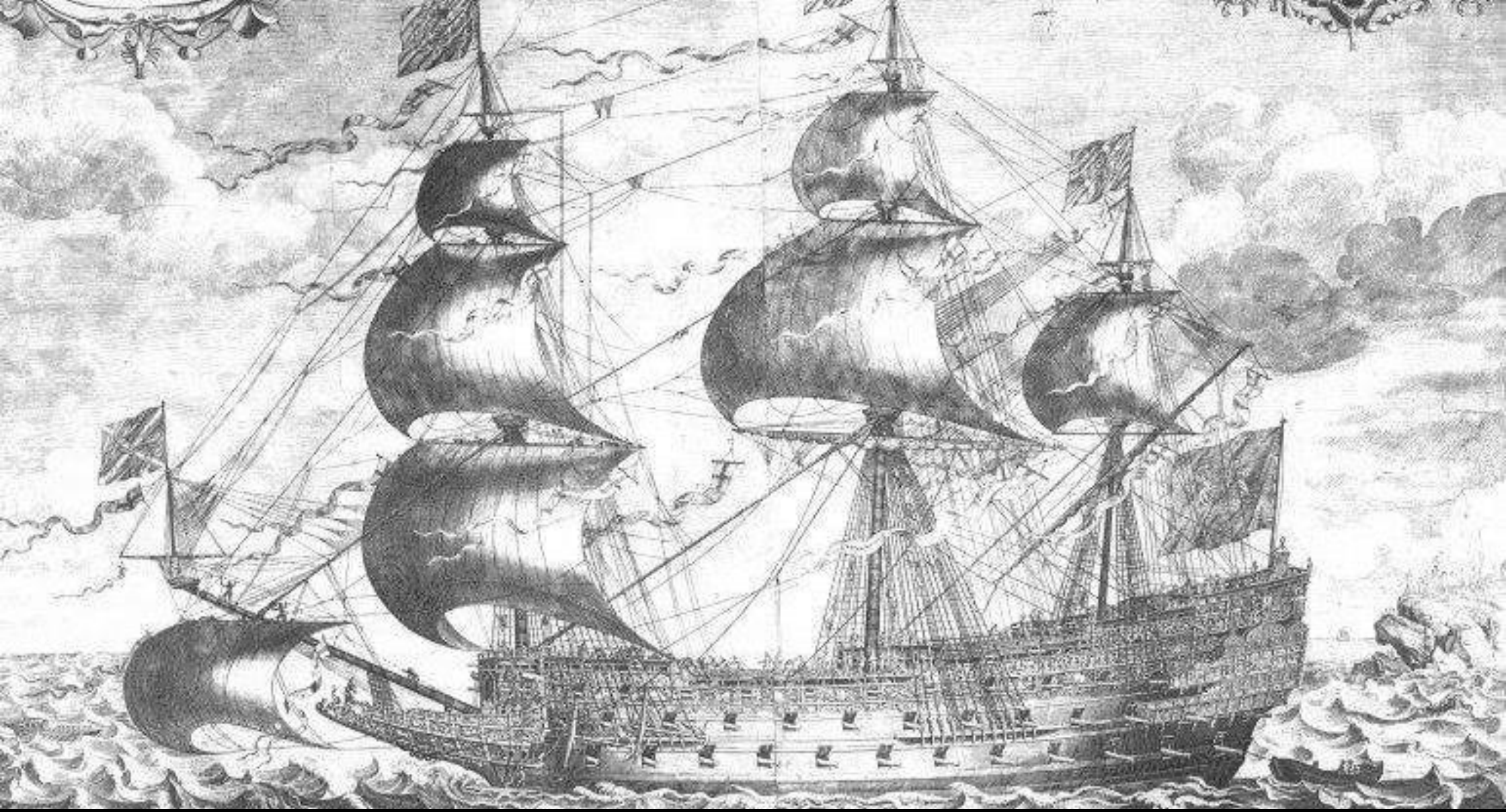
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Washington Area Group for Print Culture Studies



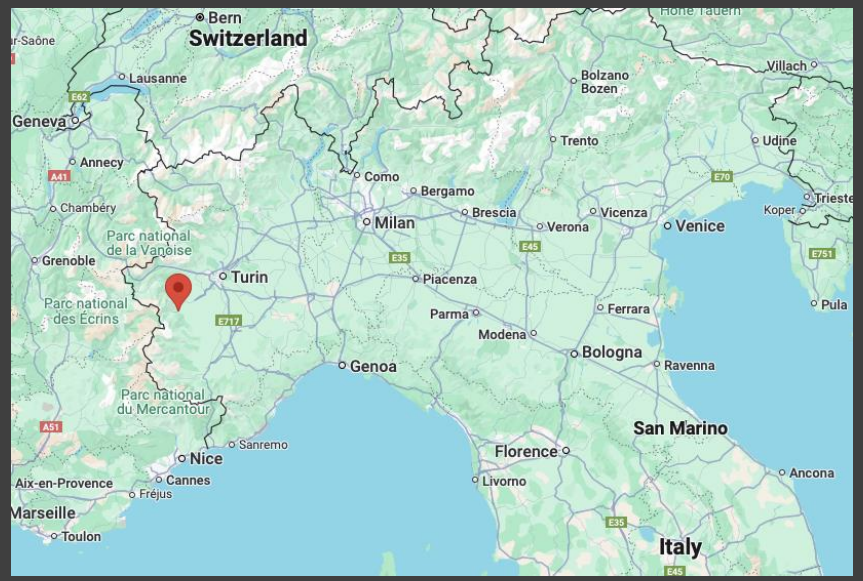


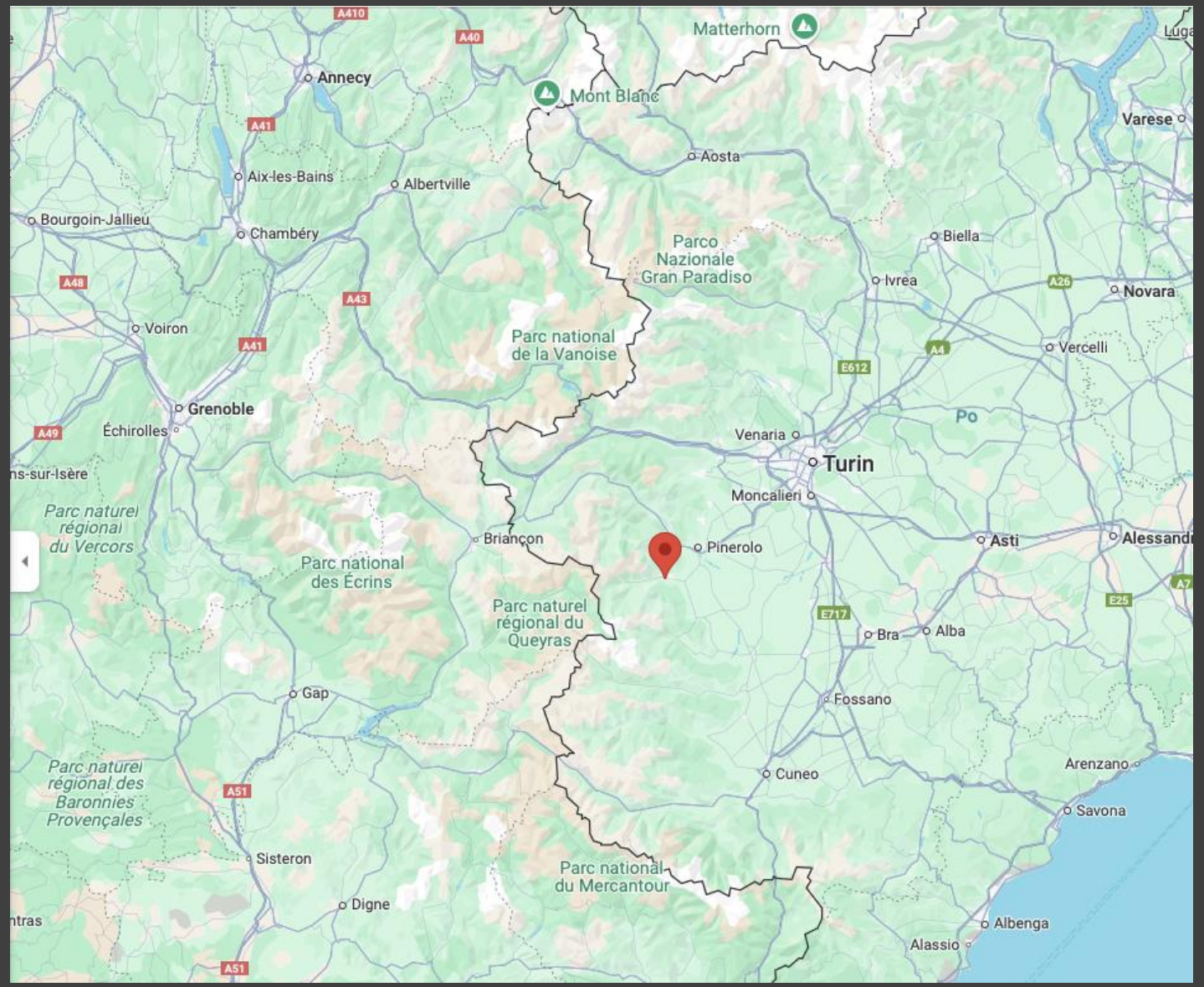
Benjamin West, 1782, “Oliver Cromwell Dissolving the Long Parliament”



J. Payne, “The true portrait of His Majesty's royal ship the *Sovereign of the Seas*”- was recommissioned under the Protectorate as the *Sovereign*





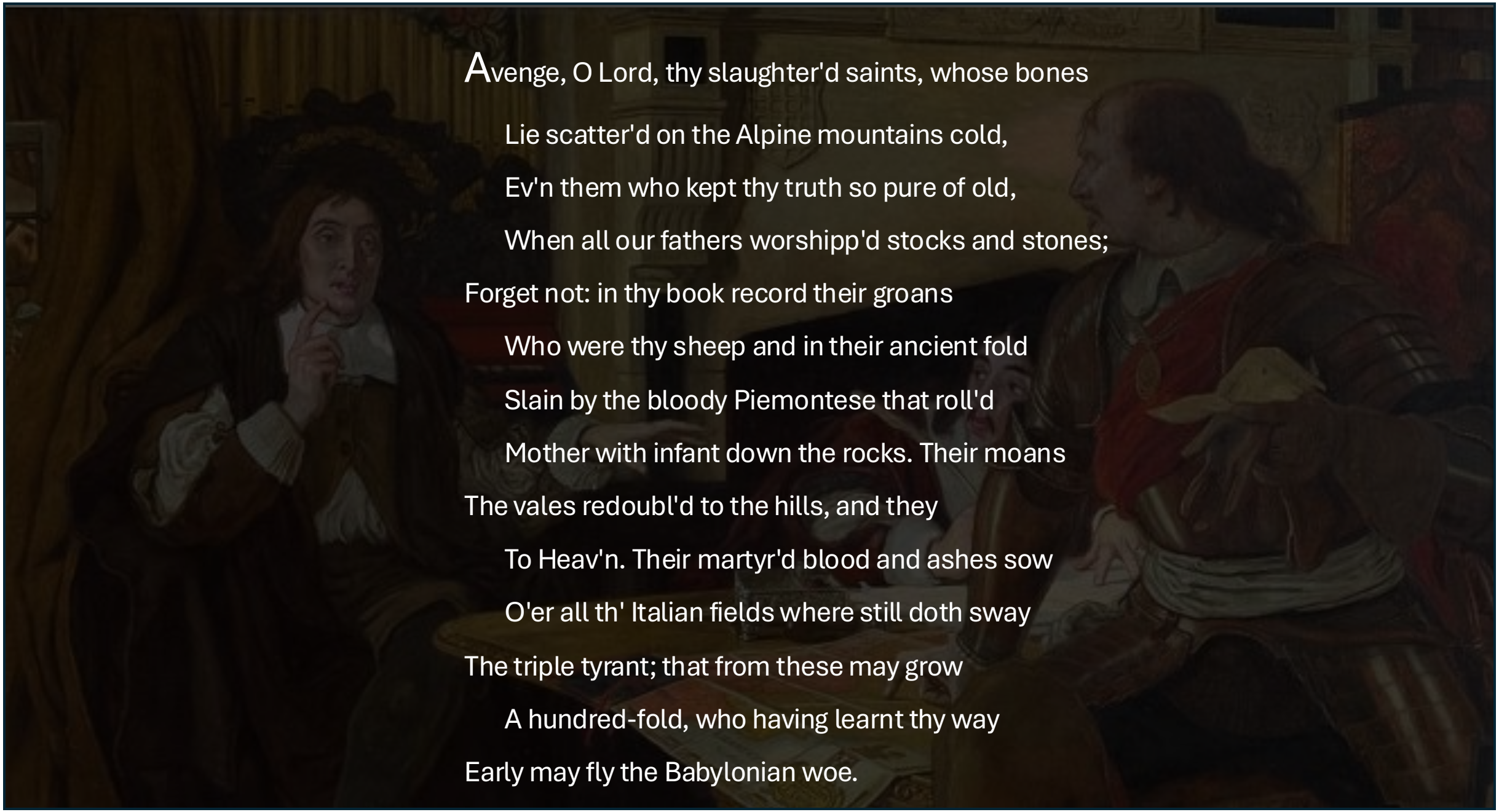


Top left: Map of the “Waldensian Valleys” From *HECVP*.

Bottom left and centre right: Torre Pellice

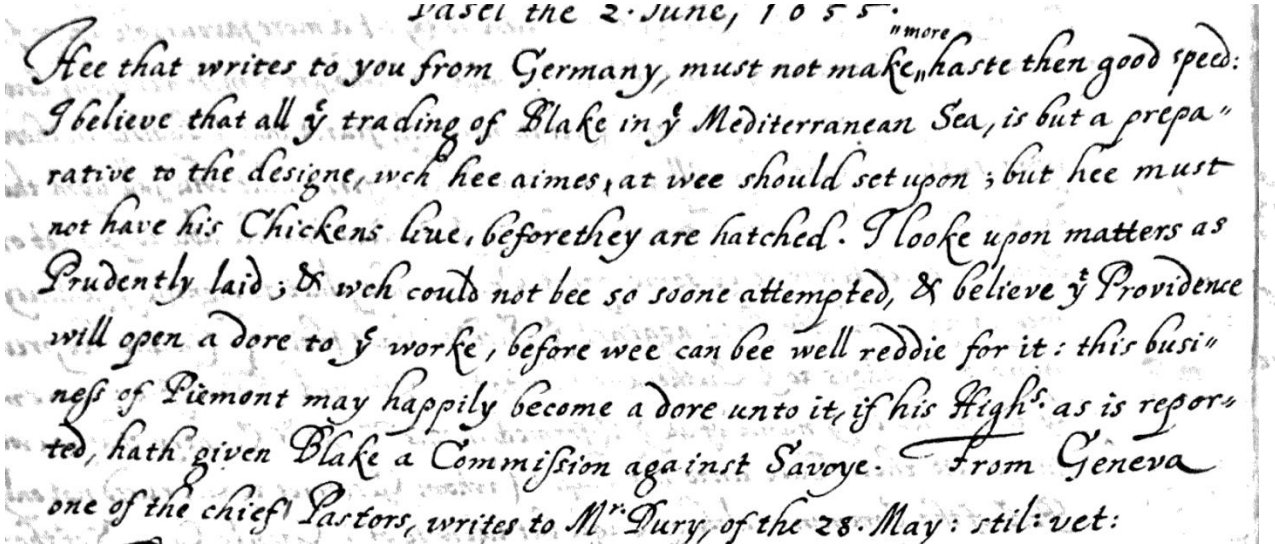


Ford Madox Brown: 1877, *Cromwell, Protector of the Vaudois*



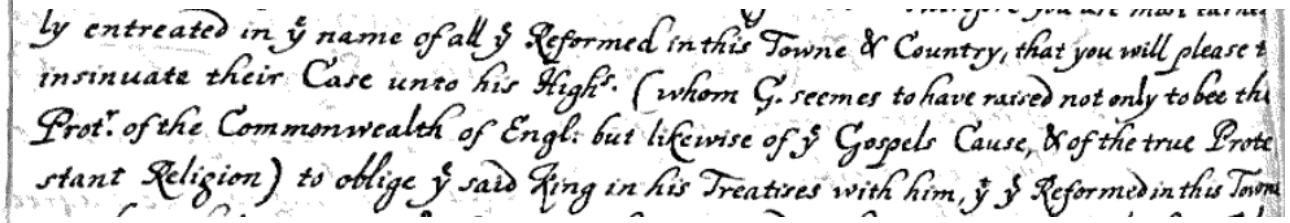
Avenge, O Lord, thy slaughter'd saints, whose bones
Lie scatter'd on the Alpine mountains cold,
Ev'n them who kept thy truth so pure of old,
When all our fathers worshipp'd stocks and stones;
Forget not: in thy book record their groans
Who were thy sheep and in their ancient fold
Slain by the bloody Piemontese that roll'd
Mother with infant down the rocks. Their moans
The vales redoubl'd to the hills, and they
To Heav'n. Their martyr'd blood and ashes sow
O'er all th' Italian fields where still doth sway
The triple tyrant; that from these may grow
A hundred-fold, who having learnt thy way
Early may fly the Babylonian woe.

Sonnet XVIII, "On the Late Massacre in Piedmont", John Milton, 1655



Basel the 2. June, 1655.

Hee that writes to you from Germany, must not make more haste then good speed: I believe that all ye trading of Blake in ye Mediterranean Sea, is but a prepa" rative to the designe, wch hee aimes at wee should set upon; but hee must not have his Chickens liue, before they are hatched. I looke upon matters as Prudently laid; & wch could not bee so soone attempted, & believe ye Providence will open a dore to ye worke, before wee can bee well reddie for it: this busi" nesse of Piemont may happily become a dore unto it, if his Highs. as is repor" ted, hath given Blake a Commission against Savoye. From Geneva one of the chiefe Pastors, writes to Mr. Dury, of the 28. May: stil: vet:



ly entreated in ye name of all ye Reformed in this Towne & Country, that you will please t insinuate their Case unto his Highs. (whom G. seemes to have raised not only to bee th Prot. of the Commonwealth of Engl: but likewise of ye Gospels Cause, & of the true Prote stant Religion) to oblige ye said King in his Treatires with him, ye ye Reformed in this Town

John Pell to Samuel Hartlib, 1655 (extracted)
"I looke upon matters as prudently laid; & weh could not bee so soone attempted, & believe the Providence *will open a dore to the worke*, before wee can bee well reddie for it : *this business of Piemont may happily become a dore unto it*, if his Highness as is reported, hath given Blake a Commission against Savoye…

Hartlib in reply:
"…you will please to insinuate their case unto his Highness (whom God seems to have raised not only to bee the Protector of the Commonwealth of England but likewise of the Gospels Cause and of the True Protestant Religion)…"

British Library *Pell Letters and Papers* Add MS 4365 f.3. Emphasis mine.

Christopher Hatton, first Baron Hatton to Sir Edward Nicholas: “The French Court (and I am sure the people here) crie out of it and it is like to have great effects; for Cromwell, they say, upon this occasion entends to make himself protector of the Protestant party of Europe…”

18 June, 1655, NP, II, pp. 343-344

to the Roman. There is passed by an Envoyee[a] with eight in company, who goes from Cromwell to Sauoye and called at the French court to know if they auowed the massacre in Sauoy of the Protestants. The French Court (and I am sure

[a] Samuel Morland, at this time an Assistant-Secretary under Thurloe; knt. and bart. in 1660, and Gent. of the Privy Chamber. He left London for his mission on 26 May, and, after treating with Louis XIV. and Mazarin at La Fère, reached Rivoli on 21 June and remained there and at Turin until 19 July.

1655. the people heere) crie out of it and it is like to haue great effects; for Cromwell, they say, vpon this occasion entends to make himselfe protector of the Protestant party ouer Europe, and the Huguenotes heere looke high. The wisest I heere of in England beleeue Cromwell seekes now a quarrell with Spaine for a pretext for the Indies, and he hath demanded the cessation of the Inquisition proceedings against Protestants. It is miraculous that Spaine and France will



THE
HISTORY
OF
The Evangelical Churches
Of the VALLEYS of
PIEMONT.

CONTAINING
A most exact *Geographical* Description of the Place, and a faithfull Account of the Doctrine, Life, and Persecutions of the Ancient Inhabitants.

TOGETHER,
With a most naked and punctual Relation of the late BLOUDY MASSACRE, 1655. And a Narrative of all the following Transactions, to the Year of Our LORD, 1658.

All which are justified, partly by divers Ancient *Manuscripts* written many hundred Years before CALVIN or LUTHER, and partly by other most Authentick Attestations: The true *Originals* of the greatest part whereof, are to be seen in their proper Languages by all the curious, in the Publick *Library* of the famous University of *CAMBRIDGE*.

Collected and compiled with much pains and industry,
By *SAMUEL MORLAND*, Esq;
During his abode in *Geneva*, in quality of HIS HIGHNESS *Commissioner Extraordinary* for the Affairs of the said VALLEYS, and particularly for the *Distribution* of the *Collected Moneys*, among the remnant of those poor distressed People.

REVEL. 6.9.
And when he had opened the fifth Seal, I saw under the Altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice saying, How long O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

LONDON.
Printed by *Henry Hills*, one of His Highness's Printers, for *Adoniram Byfield*, and are to be sold at the three Bibles in *Cornhill*, next to *Popes-head* Alley, 1658.

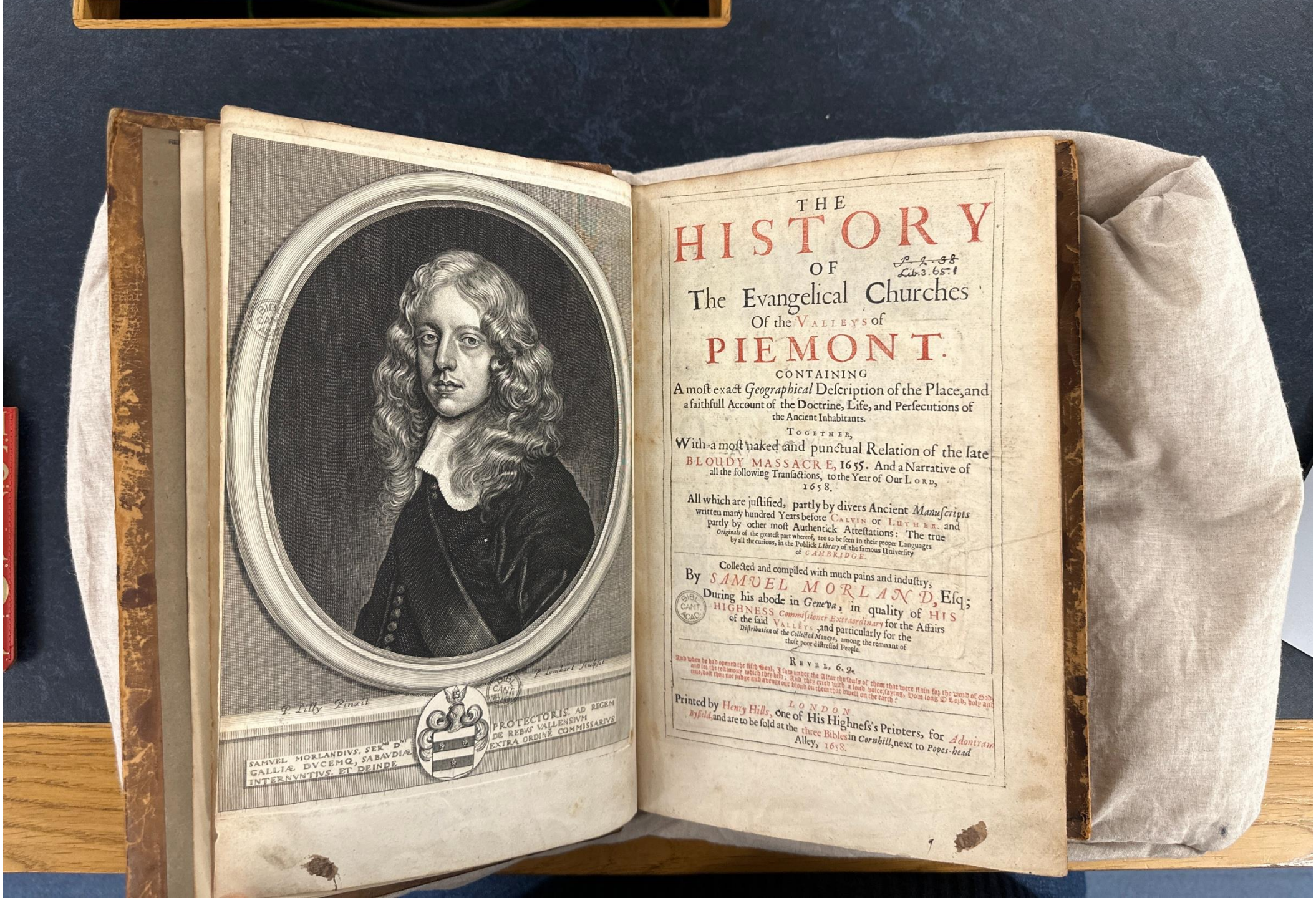
The history of the evangelical churches of the valleys of Piemont
1658
ESTC: R24410, Wing: M2779

Printer: Henry Hills
Commissioned by: Adoniram Byfield
Engraver: Pierre Lombart

Folded at "the three Bibles in Cornhill next to Popes-head Alley"

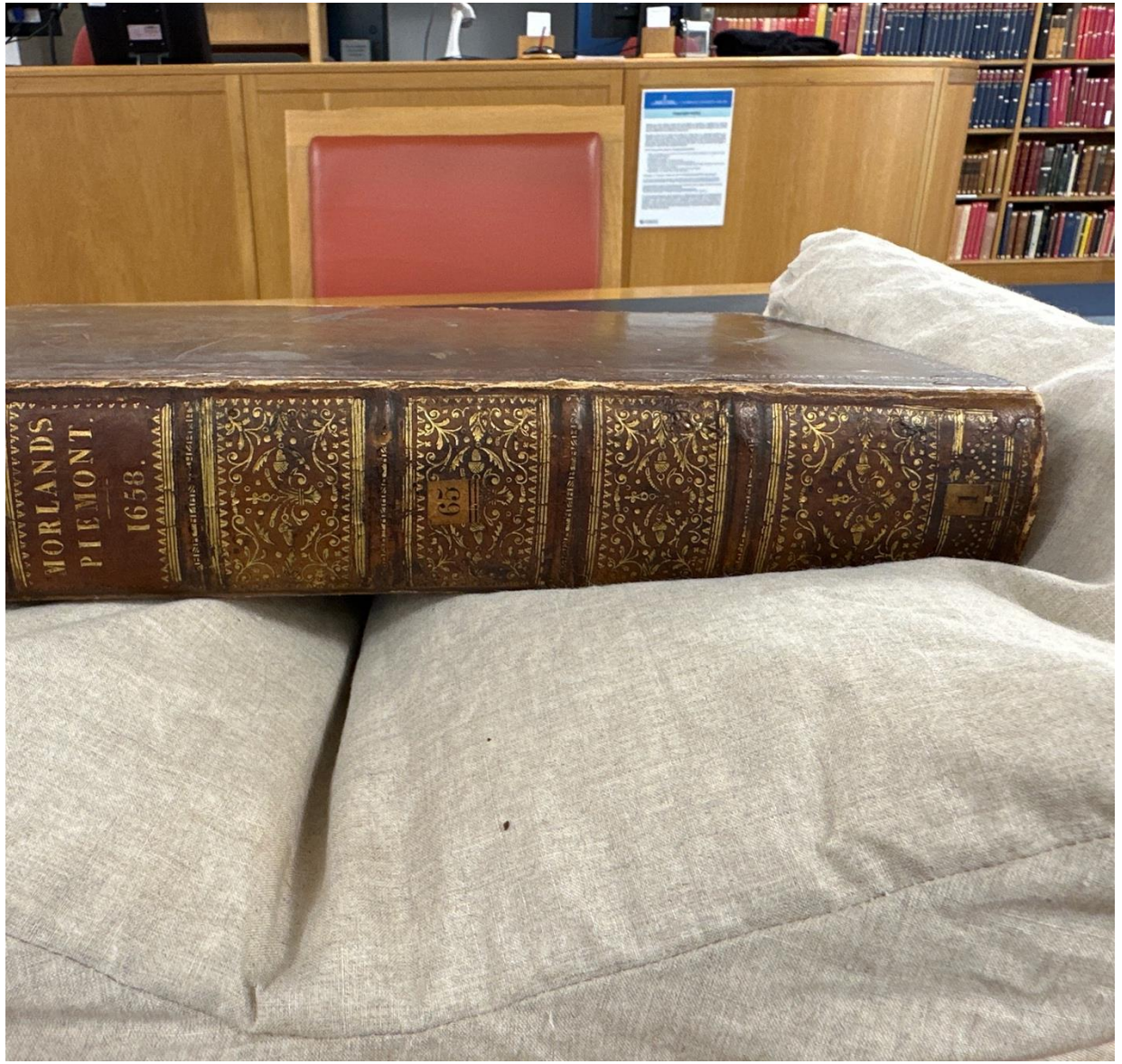
Revelation 6:9
“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.” KJV


Samuel Morland

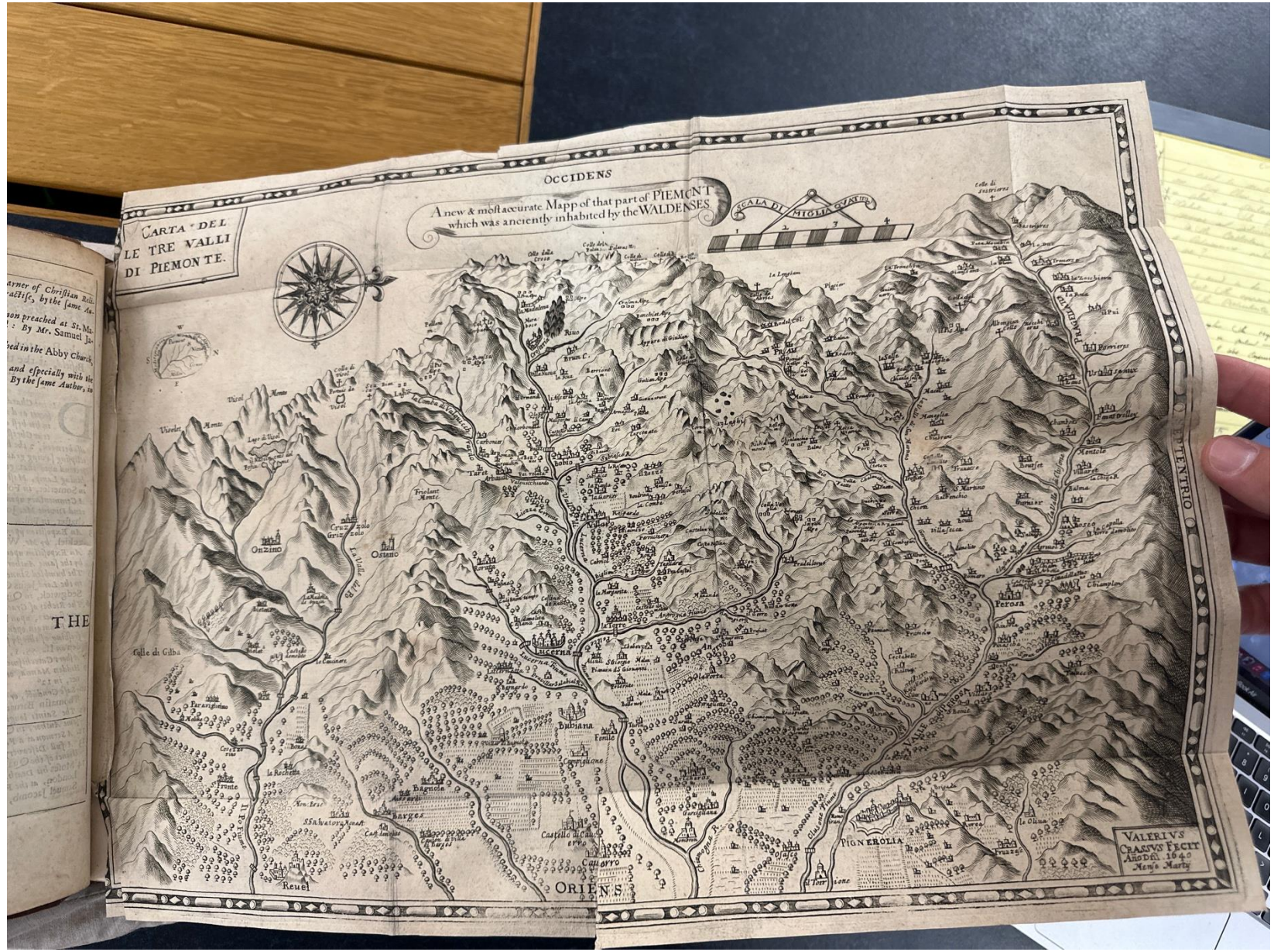


Cambridge University Library




MORLANDS
PIEMONT.
1658.
65




CARTA DEL LE TRE VALLI DI PIEMONTE.
A new & most accurate Mapp of that part of PIEMONT which was anciently inhabited by the WALDENSES
SCALA DI MIGLIA QVATTRO
OCCIDENS
ORIENS
MERIDIES
SEPTENTRIO
Onzino
Ostano
Perosa
Bubiana
Cavorso
Reuel
PIGNEROLIA
VALERIVS CRASSVS FECIT ANNO Dñi 1640 Mense Marty

The Contents and Heads of the following History of the *Evangelical Churches* in the *Valleys* of *Piemont*.

The Contents of the First BOOK.

CHAPTER,

1 THE *Situation and Extent of the* Valleys *of* Piemont.

2 *A Description of the* Evangelical Churches *in the* Valleys *of Piemont.*

3 *The Antiquity of the* Evangelical *Churches in the* Valleys *of* Piemont, *from the dayes of* Christ *and his* Apostles, *down to this present Age.*

4 *The Ancient and Modern Belief of the* Evangelical *Churches in the* Valleys *of* Piemont.

5 *The Ancient Discipline of the* Evangelical *Churches in the* Valleys *of* Piemont.

6 *Extracts of several Authentick, pious, and rare Treatises, composed by the Ancient Inhabitants of the* Valleys *of Piemont, a great part whereof were written above* 420, *others above* 550 *years ago, and most of the rest in all probability of a far more ancient date.*

7 *An Extract of those famous Treatises which were written by the ancient* Evangelical *Professours inhabiting the* Valleys *of* Piemont, *concerning* Antichrist, Purgatory, Invocation of Saints, *and the* Sacraments.

8 *A particular discourse concerning the* Barbes *or ancient Pastors of the* Evangelical *Churches in the* Valleys *of* Piemont.

The Contents of the Second BOOK.

CHAPTER,

1 *THe several troubles and persecutions of the* Evangelical Churches *in the* Valleys *of* Piemont, *from time to time, because of their* Religion.

2 *A Description of the* Marquisate *of* Saluces, *with its several Troubles and Persecutions.*

3 *The cunning Artifices, and wicked Practises formerly and at present used, to consume and destroy the remainder of the faithful in the* Valleys *of* Piemont.

4 *The Grounds and Motives of the late Persecution in the Year* 1655, *with the Publication of the* Bloudy Order of Gastaldo, *and the flight of the* Protestants *in the midst of Winter.*

5 *The most humble and earnest Supplications of the* Evangelical Churches *in the* Valleys *of* Piemont *to their Prince, for justice against the inhumanity of the* Order of Gastaldo.

6 *A brief and most authentick Narrative of some part of those extraordinary cruelties which were exercised against the poor* Protestants *of the* Valleys *of* Piemont, *during the heat of the late* Massacre *in* April 1655.

The Contents of the Third BOOK.

CHAPTER,

1 *THE Court of* Savoy's FACTUM, *or Narrative of the ſeveral Tranſactions in the* Valleys *of* Piemont *in the Year* 1655. *upon occaſion of the Report that was ſpread abroad of a* Maſſacre *of the* Proteſtants *in thoſe parts, printed and publiſhed in the* Italian, Latin, *and* French Tongues.

2 *The Animadverſions of ſome able and knowing friends of the poor* Proteſtants *of the* Valleys *of* Piemont, *upon the Court of* Savoy's FACTUM *and* REASONS, *ſet down at large in the fore-going Chapters.*

3 *A faithfull and moſt Authentick Narrative of the Continuation of the War in the* Valleys *of* Piemont, *between the* Popiſh *and* Proteſtant *party, upon the occaſion of the* Maſſacre.

parts, upon the occasion of the Massacre.

The Contents of the Fourth BOOK.

CHAPTER,

1 *THe Mediation of the* Evangelical Cantons *of* Switzerland *with the* Duke *of* Savoy, *and their Letter to the* States General, *in favour of the poor distressed* Protestants *of the* Valleys *of* Piemont.

2 *The Negotiation of Mr.* Gabriel Weis, *the Deputy of the* Evangelical Cantons *in the Court of* Savoy, *in the behalf of the poor distressed* Protestants *in the* Valleys *of* Piemont.

3 *The several Pathetick Letters of His Highness the* Lord Protector *of the Commonwealth of* England, *&c. to his* Protestant *Neighbours, in favour of the poor distressed* Protestants *in the* Valleys *of* Piemont.

4 *Mr.* Morlands *Negotiation in quality of* His Highnes Envoy *to the* King *of* France, *and* Duke *of* Savoy, *in the year* 1655.

5 *A brief Accompt of the notable and famous Collection in* England, Wales, *and* Ireland, *for the relief of the poor distressed* Protestants *in the* Valleys *of* Piemont; *in the year* 1655.

6 *The notable effects of the Intercession of His Highness the* Lord Protector *of* England, *&c. for the poor distressed* Protestants *in the* Valleys *of* Piemont, *upon the spirits of the Neighbouring Princes and States of the* Protestant Profession, *with divers of their Letters upon that subject, as also the intended Negotiation of the* Commissioners Extraordinary *from His Highness the* Lord Protector, *and the* States General *of the* United Provinces.

7 *The Negotiation of the four Ambassadors of the* Evangelical Cantons *of* Switzerland, *in the Court of* Savoy, *and the Treaty concluded at* Pignerol. *Together with a Copy of that Relation which they themselves sent their Superiours at the same time.*

8 *The many Grievances and sad effects of the Treaty concluded at* Pignerol, *with a true description of the present state and condition of those poor people.*

An Abbreviate of that Accompt which was delivered in to the Right Honourable the Commissioners appointed by His *Highness* and the Council, for the management of the Affairs of the poor *Protestants* in the *Valleys* of *Piemont*, in the Moneth of *November*, 1657. By Sir *Thomas Viner*, and Sir *Christopher Pack*, Knights, Treasurers for receiving and issuing forth the moneys collected in *England*, *Wales* and *Ireland*, for their relief.

	l.	s.	d.
Given by His Highness in particular,	2000	00	00
Within the Cities of London and Westminster, and the Weekly Bill of Mortality,	9384	06	11
County of Middlesex 62 Parishes,	0950	06	01
Berkshire 127 Parishes,	0555	09	09
Bedfordshire 124 Parishes,	0282	09	07
Buckinghamshire 180 P.	0498	02	03
Cambridgeshire 158 P.	0497	02	00
Cheshire 68 P.	0224	02	11
Cornwal 171 Parishes,	0527	03	10
Cumberland 80 Parishes,	0145	16	03
Derbyshire 129 Parishes,	0236	07	10
Devonshire 417 Parishes,	1965	00	03
Dorsetshire 235 Parishes,	0901	00	07
Durham 68 Parishes,	0291	07	00
Essex 379 Parishes,	1512	17	07
Glocestershire 144 Parishes,	0305	05	01
Hampshire 244 Parishes,	0740	09	05
Herefordshire 157 Parishes,	0185	11	07
Hertfordshire 127 Parishes,	0737	03	00
Huntingtonshire 76 Parishes,	0143	17	10
Kent 363 Parishes,	1346	18	03
Lancashire 86 Parishes,	0472	19	03
Leicestershire 224 Parishes,	0383	19	06
Lincolnshire 552 Parishes,	0797	09	08
Monmouthshire 101 Parishes,	0162	00	00
Norfolk 586 Parishes,	1014	01	05
Northamptonshire 280 Parishes,	0676	12	04
Nottinghamshire 176 Parishes,	0311	02	09
Northumberland 19 Parishes,	0317	11	06
Oxfordshire 244 Parishes,	0923	05	06

Rutland.

	l.	s.	d.
Rutlandshire 50 Parishes,	0068	00	06
Shropshire 108 Parishes,	0234	16	11
Somersetshire 413 Parishes,	1080	01	10
Staffordshire 125 Parishes,	0320	08	03
Suffolk 401 Parishes,	1184	08	00
Sussex 220 Parishes,	0650	10	01
Surrey 103 Parishes,	0723	17	05
Warwickshire 184 Parishes,	0495	11	03
Westmerland 37 Parishes,	0063	18	05
Wiltshire 276 Parishes,	0580	19	06
Worcestershire 103 Parishes,	0262	09	00
Yorkshire 484 Parishes,	1786	14	05

WALES.

Anglesey 39 Parishes,	0019	06	11
Brecknock 7 Parishes,	0006	03	08
Cardigan 10 Parishes,	0010	05	09
Carmarthenshire 54 Parishes,	0025	16	11
Carnarvanshire 40 Parishes,	0022	05	05
Denbighshire 9 Parishes,	0027	04	08
Flintshire 25 Parishes,	0058	08	08
Glamorganshire 106 Parishes,	0160	07	03
Merionethshire 8 Parishes,	0003	00	01
Montgomerishire 16 Parishes,	0027	19	03
Pembrookshire 95 Parishes,	0057	16	01
Radnershire 7 Parishes,	0001	14	04
The particular Gift of several persons,	1735	02	00
The total Sum of the collected Moneys, as well what was given by His Highness in particular, as what was received by the Treasurers,	38097	07	03

Whereof paid for and towards the Relief of the said poor in the *Valleys* of *Piemont*.

	l.	s.	d.
By His Highness the Lord Protector, being His free Gift,	02000	00	00
By Warrants upon several Bills of Exchange,	17700	00	00
To Mr. Morland to be paid according to Order,	00200	00	00
To Christiana Uldrick,	00100	00	00
To John Benthouse,	00020	00	00
To Captain Raymond,	00150	00	00
To Petty Charges disbursed about the same,	00063	17	00
Summa	20233	17	00
So resteth in ready money,	17863	10	03

Paid

Breakout of Cromwell's contributions

Library of Princeton Theological Seminary
FEB

THE Authors Epistle Dedicatory

To His most Serene Highness,

OLIVER,

By the Grace of God, *Lord Protector of England, Scotland,* and *Ireland,* &c.

May it please YOUR HIGHNESS,

WHen I consider the great presumption of the *Age* we live in, and how even the meanest Writers think it an undervaluing to their Works, if they have not the Greatest of *Princes* for their *Patrons,* I am loth to press in with the crowd to importune *Your Highness* by a *Dedication* of the following *History*; But when I call to minde how exceeding precious in *Your* thoughts the lives and li-

 berties

Content Warning

The next series of slides depict atrocious and graphic violence



Giotto di Bondone, 1305



Guido Reni, 1611



Nicolas Poussin, c.1628

The massacre of the Innocents, a trope depicting events from the Gospel of Matthew



Callot, 1633, *Les Grandes Misères de la guerre*



Bruegel the Elder, Massacre of the Innocents













The Lamentations of Germany, 1638 also called the *Teares of Germany*



Images from *The Teares of Ireland*, 1642 representing the depositions of the 1641 Irish Rebellion

Teares of Ireland



Child murder



Babies excised from women



Savage barbarism



HECVP

Depictions of butchery



Teares of Ireland



HECVP



Teares of Ireland

HECVP





Extreme violence against women and children



HECVP



Lamentations of Germany



Lamentations of Germany



HECVP



The Torments inflicted by the Dutch on the English in Amboyna.



The Condition of the English in the Dungeon, and their Execution.

The Torments inflicted by the Dutch on the English in Amboyna and *The Condition of the English in the Dungeon, and their Execution*.

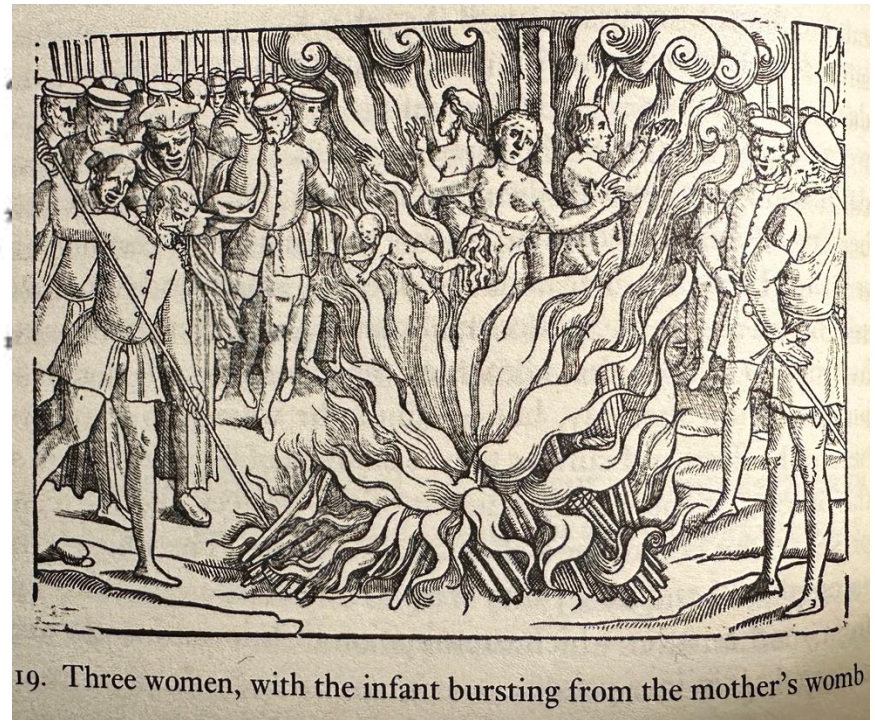


Actes and Monuments



HECVP





19. Three women, with the infant bursting from the mother's womb

thruſt into her Privities, by
ried her upon their ſhoulders in manner of an



ſelves, each man in his turn, and then they ſtuck the other end down into
ground, and ſo left her hanging in the ayr upon the Stakes end, as a moſt
midable and horrid ſpectacle to all that paſſed by that way.



Two poor Women of La Torre.

Upon the 22th. of *April* 1655. in a certain place called *La Sarcena*, One Captain *Pola* of *Pancalier*, took two poor women of *La Torre*, and with a Fau-



Here followes a Catalogue of the *Manuſcripts*, and other pieces inſerted, or at leaſt mentioned in the following *Hiſtory of the Evangelical Churches of the Valleys of Piemont*; The greateſt part and moſt eſſential whereof are either *Originals*, or otherwiſe moſt Authentickly *Vidimated* for the juſtification of that Work to Poſterity.

Preſented by the Author (together with divers other Manuſcripts relating to the late troubles of *Switzerland* upon the Accompt of *Religion*) as his free gift, to the publick Library of the famous Univerſity of *Cambridge*, in *Auguſt* 1658.

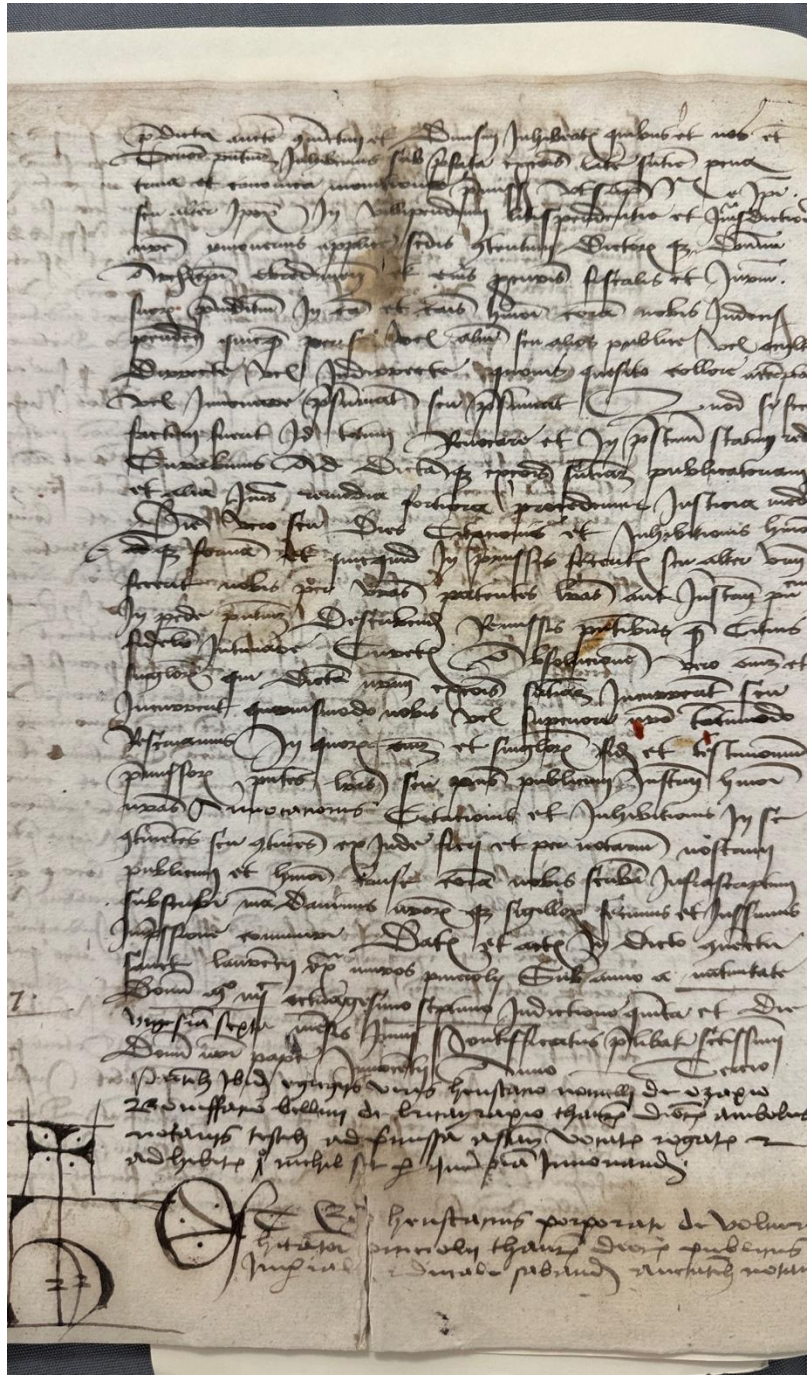
THe Volume marked with the Letter *A*, contains in it the following Treatiſes.

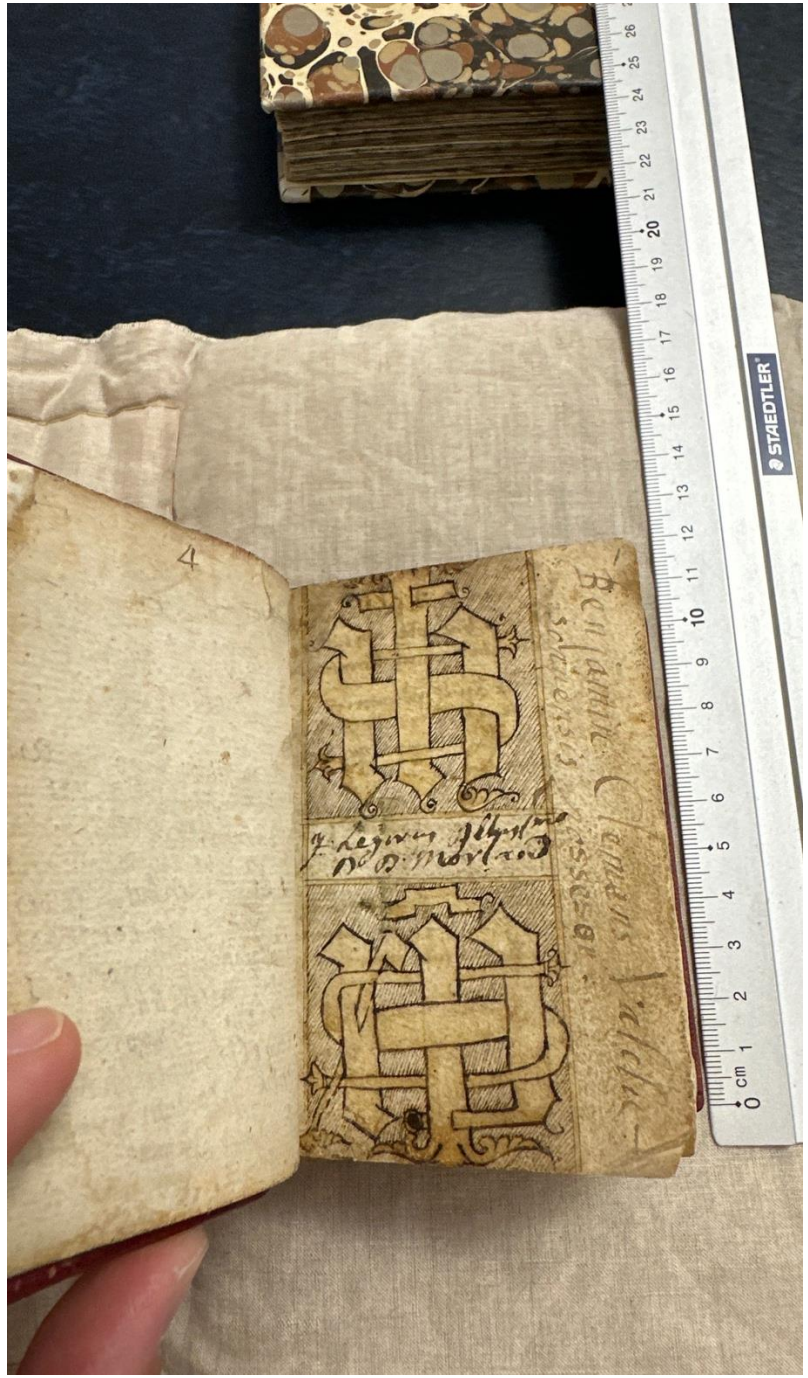
1 *The Hiſtory of the Creation and Deluge, written in their own Language.*
2 *An excellent Treatiſe of ſundry profitable Inſtructions which a man ought to learn from the nature of divers Animals.*
3 Lo tracta di la pecca, *or a Treatiſe of Sin, which is an allegorical and moral Explanation of the* Beaſt *deſcribed*, Rev. 13.
4 *A Treatiſe of the Word of God, and the power and efficacie thereof; as alſo how it ought to be received; at the end whereof there is affixed the Date, either of the Work, or at leaſt of the Copy of it*, viz. Anno Domini 1230.
5 *Several* Latin *Pieces, which are certain Rhapſodies concerning Prieſts and Friers.*
6 *A Treatiſe againſt* Tramettament, *or Traditions and Ordinances of Men, as not conſonant to the Holy Scriptures.*
7 *An Exhortation to* Herman, *to convert himſelf to God, and not to the creatures.*
8 *Concerning Phariſaical Plantations which the Father hath not planted*, viz. *the Orders and Sects of* Monks, Franciſcan Friers, Dominicans, *and the like, which are not ordained by God.*
9 *A* Latin *Treatiſe*, De Officiis Conjugum, Viri & Uxoris.
10 *A* Latin *Treatiſe*, De Symbolo Apoſtolico.

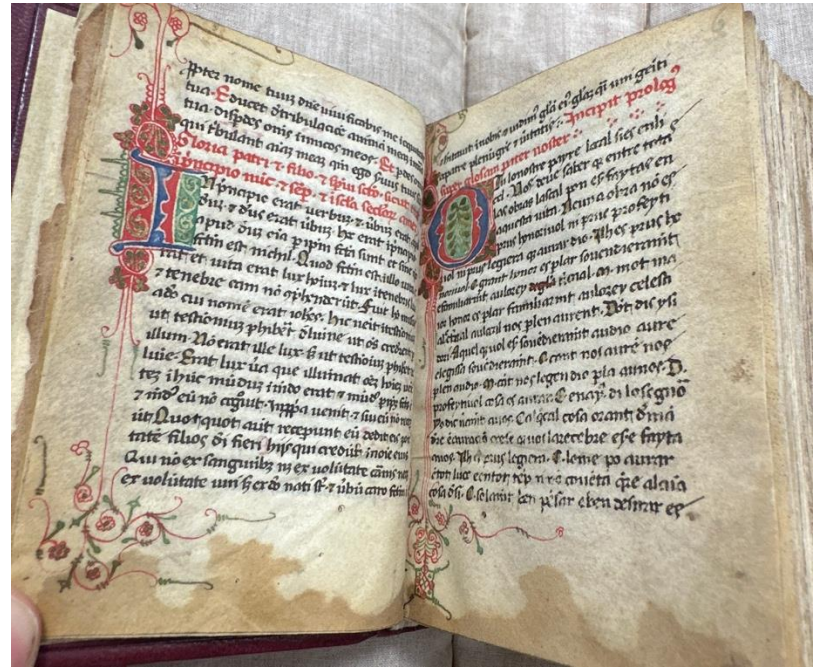
11 *A* Latin *Treatiſe*, De Ædificatione Urbium, Idololatriæ ortu & progreſſu, ejuſque everſione per Evangelii predicationem.
12 *A* Latin *Treatiſe*, Quibus Modis peccatum fiat.
13 *A* Latin *Treatiſe*, De vera peccati purgatione.
14 *A* Latin *Treatiſe entituled*, Uni Deo placere ſtudeamus.
15 *A* Latin *Treatiſe entituled*, Tres Veritates. 1 Doctrinæ. 2 Juſtitiæ. 3 Vitæ.
16 *A* Latin *Treatiſe entituled*, Sola Dei Lege ſcripta definiri Fidei Controverſias.

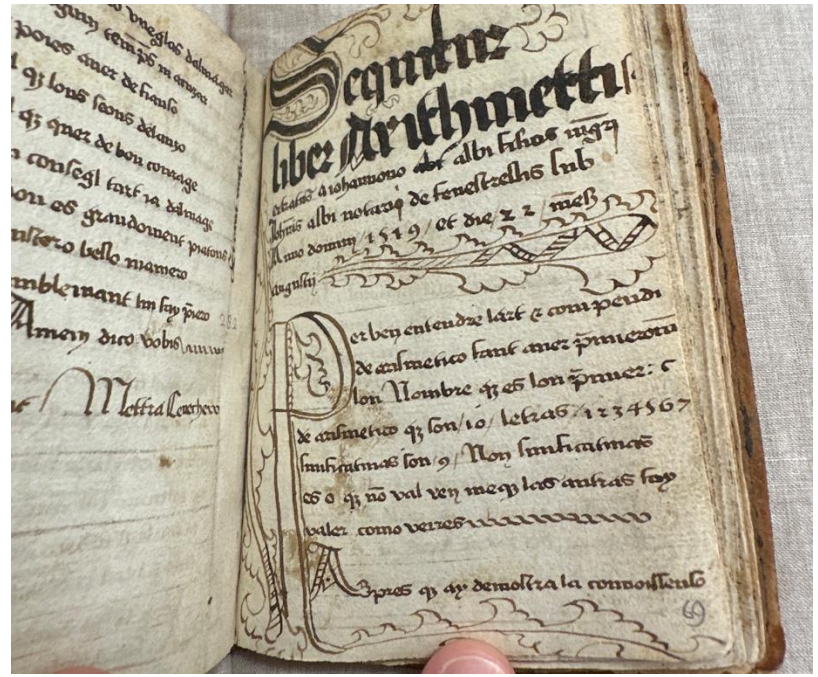
In the Volum marked with the Letter *B.* are contained the following Treatiſes, all written in that which is called the *Waldenſian* Language, in Parchment, and that in a very ancient, but excellent Character.

1 Gloſa Pater, *or the Explication of the Lords Prayer.*
2 Trecenas, *or divers paſſages of the Evangeliſts, and Epiſtles.*
3 Doctor, *that is, divers Sentences and Teſtimonies of the Fathers, touching Repentance.*
4 Penas, *or a Treatiſe concerning the puniſhment of ſin.*
5 Li Goy de Paradis, *a Treatiſe concerning the Joys of Paradiſe.*
6 *An Epiſtle to all the Faithfull.*
7 *A Poeme entituled*, Novel Conſort.
8 *A Poeme entituled*, Novel Sermon, *containing many wholeſome Inſtructions to the People.*
9 *A Poeme entituled*, La Noble Leyçon.
10 *A Poeme entituled*, Pair eternal.
11 *A Poeme entituled*, Barca, *concerning the miſery and ſhortneſs of mans life, and his arriving at the haven of Salvation.*
12 *An Explanation of the Ten Commandments.*
13 *An Explanation of the Articles of the Apoſtles Creed.*
14 *A Treatiſe concerning Vice, and Mortal Sins.*
15 *A Treatiſe concerning the ſeven Gifts of the Spirit*, Iſai 11.
16 *A Treatiſe concerning the three Theological, and the four Cardinal Virtues.*
17 *A Treatiſe concerning the Goods of Fortune, Nature, and Grace.*
18 *A Treatiſe concerning the ſix honorable things in this World.*
19 *Several Sermons upon ſeveral Texts of Scripture; Namely,*
1 *A Sermon upon the ſecond of* Matthew *touching idle words.*
2 *A Sermon upon* Epheſ. 4. *touching the putting on of the New Man.*
3 *A Sermon* Del Fantin Jeſus, *or concerning the little Childe* Jeſus, *during his abode in* Jeruſalem, Luk. 2.
4 *A Sermon touching Chriſts being tempted in the Deſert*, Matth. 4. *and* Luke 4.
5 *A Sermon upon* Mat. 8. 25. Save us, or elſe we periſh.
6 *A Sermon touching the Rich Man*, Luke 16.
7 *A Sermon upon the ſixth of* John.
8 *A Sermon upon the Parable of the Sower*, Matth. 13.









Thank you