

to be very perceptive. Christ's mind is, that Evangelical Policies, should be framed by Angelical measures; not by a line of flax, but by a golded Reed, *Rev.* 21. 15.

I fear, he that sayes the Presbyterian and Independent way, if rightly carryed do not meet in one, he doth not handle his Compasses so considerately as he should.

I fear if Authority doth not establish a suitable and peaceable Government of Churches the sooner, the bells in all the steeples will ring awke so long, that they will hardly be brought into tune any more.

My last, but not least fear, is, That God will hardly replant his Gospel in any part of Christendome, in so fair an Edition as is expected, till the whole field hath been so ploughed and harrowed, that the soile be thoroughly cleansed and fitted for new seed: Or whether he will not transplant it into some other Regions, I know not: This fear I have feared these Twenty years, but upon what grounds I had rather bury than broach.

I dare not but add to what preceded about Church-reformation, a most humble Petition, that the Authority of the Ministry be kept in its due altitude: if it be dropp'd in the dust, it will soon be stifled: Encroachments on both sides, have bred detriments enough to the whole. The Separatists are content their teaching Elders should sit highest on the Bench, so they may sit in the Chair over-against them; and that their Ruling Elders shall ride on the saddle, so they may hold the bridle. That they may likewise have seasonable and honourable maintenance, and that certainly stated: which generally we find and practise here as the best way. When Elders live upon Peoples good wills, People care little for their ill wills, be they never so just. Voluntary Contributions or non tributions of Members, put Ministers upon many temptations in administrations of their Offices, two hours care does more dis-spirit an ingenuous man than two dayes study: nor can an Elder be given to hospitality, when he knows not what will be given him to defray it: it is pity men of gifts should live upon mens gifts. I have seen most of the Reformed Churches in Europe, and seen more misery in these two respects, than it is meet others should hear: the complaints of painful *Pareus*, *David Pareus*, to my self, with tears, concerning the Germane Churches are not to be related.

There is yet a Personal Reformation, as requisite as the Political. When States are so reformed, that they conform such as are profligate into good civility: civil men, into religious morality: When Churches are so constituted, that Faith is ordained Pastor, Truth Teacher, Holiness and Righteousness ruling Elders: Wisdom and Charity Deacons: Knowledge, love, hope, zeal,