

**THREE SERMONS,
PREACHED IN TIMES
OF PUBLIC ANXIETY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649428571

Three Sermons, Preached in Times of Public Anxiety by Arthur Philip Perceval

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ARTHUR PHILIP PERCEVAL

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LONDON:

W. J. CLEAVER, BAKER STREET,

PORTMAN SQUARE;

J. LESLIE, GREAT QUEEN STREET,

LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.

MDCCCLX.

LONDON:
RICHARDS, PRINTER, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

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By the same Author.

AN

APOLOGY FOR THE DOCTRINE

OF

APOSTOLICAL SUCCESSION.

WITH AN APPENDIX, ON THE ENGLISH ORDERS.

SERMON I.

PREACHED IN THE CHAPEL ROYAL, ST. JAMES'S, BEFORE THE
QUEEN'S MAJESTY.

“ Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”—MATT. vi. 33.

THESE gracious and comfortable words were spoken by the Redeemer of mankind, the Head and Founder of the Christian Church,* for the sake of dispelling from the minds of His faithful followers, the members of His Church, those clouds of earth-born care, anxiety, and apprehension which never fail to harass carnal and worldly persons; who, being destitute of the grace of God, are unable to lift their eyes, or raise their thoughts, beyond the consideration of second

* Ephes. v. 23.

causes, to the dishonour and neglect of the great First Cause, who overrules the affairs of earth* as well as of heaven, and causes all things to work together for good† to those who love Him; to those who having been called by Him to the adoption of sons,‡ by the sacrament of Holy Baptism, strive to walk worthy§ of their glorious calling, as heirs of GOD and joint heirs with CHRIST,|| strengthening themselves by participation in the Holy Eucharist, with that spiritual food¶ which nourishes unto eternal life.

They are indeed words of grace and comfort. To speak to their general meaning they amount to this: that, as long as we make GOD the chief object of our lives, and strive to order our conduct with a view to His glory, we shall never want a friend able and willing to supply all our wants: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee;"** we shall place ourselves under

* Dan. iv. 17. † Romans viii. 28. ‡ Gal. iv. 5.
 § Ephes. iv. 1. || Romans viii. 17. ¶ 1 Cor. x. 16.
 ** Heb. xiii. 5.

the immediate and special protection of Him who has "all power in heaven and in earth,"* and, in that confidence, may go on our way calmly and cheerfully under any and all circumstances. How great a comfort this gracious promise is they only can say who have made trial of it,† but there is no station which does not need it,—none too high, none too low, to derive advantage from it. Take the case of the poor peasant, who lives from hand to mouth, and whose whole maintenance, and that of his family, depends upon his labour; who knows not from day to day that he will continue in health to pursue his labour, nor that he will continue to have labour to do; who sees his family increasing upon him, with no more certain prospects of supply than the fowls of the air. What, but confidence in the care of his Heavenly Father, can enable a man in such circumstances to go on his way with peace and

* Matt. xxviii. 18.

† Psalms, xxix. 8.