

Prayer and renounce the Covenant,¹ and so I had a mind to hear Dr. Bates's farewell sermon, and walked to St. Dunstans, where, it being not 7 a-clock yet, the doors were not open; and so I went and walked an hour in the Temple garden, reading my vows; which it is a great content to me to see how I am a changed man, in all respects for the better, since I took them – which the God of Heaven continue to me and make me thankful for. At 8 a-clock I went and crowded in at a back door among others, and the church being half-full almost before any doors were open publicly. And so got into the Gallry besides the pulpit and heard very well. His text was, "Now the god of peace" – the last *Hebrews* and the 20 verse – he making a very good sermon and very little reflections in it to anything of the times. Besides the sermon, I was very well pleased with the sight of a fine lady that I have often seen walk in Grayes Inn walks. After dinner to St. Dunstan's again, and the church quite crowded before I came, which was just at one a-clock; but I got into the gallery again, but stood in a crowd and did exceedingly sweat all the while. He pursued his text again very well, and only at the conclusion told us after this manner – "I do believe that many of you do expect that I should say something to you in reference to the time, this being the last time that possibly I may appear here. You know it is not my manner to speak anything in the pulpit that is extraneous to my text and business. Yet this I shall say, that it is not my opinion, faction, or humour that keeps me from complying with what is required of us, but something which after much prayer, discourse and study yet remains unsatisfied and commands me herein. Wherefore, if it is my unhappinesse not to receive such an illuminacion as should direct me to do otherwise, I know no reason why men should not pardon me in this world, and am confident that God will pardon me for it in the next." And so he concluded. I hear most of the Presbyters took their leaves today. And the City is much dissatisfied with it. I pray God keep peace among us and make the Bishops careful of bringing in good men in their room, or else all will fly a-pieces; for bad ones will not down with the City.

1. According to the terms of the Act of Uniformity passed in May. As a result about a thousand parsons were extruded from their livings, fifty or so in London and Westminster alone. The Covenant (1643) was an attempt to impose Presbyterianism on the Church of England as the price of Scottish help to Parliament in the Civil War.