

ABRAHAM COWLEY.

The following passage is selected from the Works of Abraham Cowley, a distinguished English Poet and Prose Writer of the seventeenth Century. It is a very remarkable example of one of the most eloquent, best constructed, longest, but at the same time clearest, sentences in the English Language, written at a time when that language flourished in it's greatest strength and purity. It occurs in a Tract entitled, "A Vision concerning the Person and Government of His late Highness the Lord Protector," (Cromwell.)

The Writer had attached himself to the party of Charles the First, during that tremendous struggle between Royal Prerogative and Popular Privilege which led, through Civil War, to the formation, for a short time, of a Republican Commonwealth in England; but which, afterwards, subsiding, not without many and long and severe struggles, into the establishment of a Free Monarchy, laid the foundation of the lawful liberties of the English People. After the death of Charles the First, Cowley continued to be a tranquil partizan of the vanquished cause, serving with his pen, whenever the occasion offered, the interests of the exiled Royal Family, against the vigorous administration of the Protector of the Commonwealth; — the cause of ancient despotism against that of recent usurpation. This tract was written shortly after Cromwell's death. It supposes the writer, on his return from witnessing the ceremonial of the Funeral in Westminster abbey, to be engaged by the Guardian Angel of the late Protector, whom he represents under the form of the Devil, in a controversy on the character of that extraordinary person, and on the principles of his Government. In the following extract, (a single sentence,) Cowley, with a masterly hand, and in a spirit of bitter animadversion, endeavours to trace the whole character and history of one of the ablest men, and as he

ΑΒΡΑΑΜ ΚΟΟΥΛΕΪ.

Τὸ ἐπακόλουθον τεμάχιον ἐλήφθη ἀπὸ τὰ Συγγραμμάτα τοῦ ἐπισήμου τῆς παρελθούσης ἐκατονταετηρίδος Ἀγγλου ποιητοῦ καὶ πεζογράφου Ἀβραάμ Κάουλεϊ. Γραμμένον εἰς ἐποχὴν καθ' ἣν ἤκμαζεν ἡ Γλῶσσα εἰς τὴν ἰδίαν τῆς ζωηρότητα καὶ γλαφυρότητα, παραδειγματίζει βέβαια μίαν τῶν κομψοτέρων, μακροτέρων, κ' ἐν ταυτῷ εὐσυντακτοτέρων περιόδων τῆς ἰδίας γλώσσης. Αὐτὸ εἶναι μέρος συγγραμματος ὀνομαζομένου: Ὀπτασίαι ἀναφερομένη εἰς τὴν Αὐτοῦ Ὑψηλότητα τὸν Λόρδ ποτὲ Προσάτην Κρομβέλλον καὶ εἰς τὴν Κυβερνήσιν του.

— Ο Συγγραφεὺς ἦτο προσκολλημένος εἰς τὸ μέρος τοῦ Καρόλου Α'. διαρκούσης τῆς τρομερᾶς ἐκείνης ἀλληλομαχίας διὰ τὰ τοῦ βασιλέως καὶ τοῦ λαοῦ προνόμια, ἐκείνης ἥτις ἐπέφερε τοὺς ἐμφυλίους πολέμους δι' ὀλιγαρχὴν σύσασιν Δημοκρατικῆς Διοικήσεως, μεταβληθείσης ἔπειτα, μετὰ πολλῶν ὅμως ἄλλων καὶ δεινῶν ἀλληλομαχιῶν, εἰς Ἐλευθέραν Μοναρχίαν ἀσφαλιζουσαν βέβαια τὴν νάμικον τῶν Ἀγγλικῶν Λαῶν Ἐλευθερίαν.

Μετὰ τὸν θάνατον τοῦ Καρόλου Α'. ἐξηκολούθησεν ὁ Κάουλεϊ νὰ ζῇ ταπεινὸς ἐνθουσιαστὴς τῆς ἀποτυχούσης φατρίας, μὴ ἀπολείπων ὅμως ποτὲ ἀπὸ τοῦ νὰ ὑπερασπίζεται εἰς ἀρμοδίαν περὶς αὖτις καὶ μετὰ τὸν κάλαμον τὰ δικαιώματα τῆς Βασιλικῆς ἐξουσιθεσίας οἰκογενείας, κατὰ τῆς Κυβερνήσεως τοῦ Προσάτου τῆς Δημοκρατίας, τὴν ὑπόθεσιν δηλ. τῆς περασμένης Βασιλείας, ἐναντίον τοῦ παρόντος ἐκθρονισμοῦ.

--- Τὸ σύγγραμμα τοῦτο ἐξεδόθη ὀλίγον μετὰ τὸν θάνατον Κρομβέλλου. Ὑποτίθεται ὁ Συγγραφεὺς μετὰ τὴν ἐπιστροφήν του ἀπὸ τὴν νεκρικὴν τελετὴν ἐκτελεσθεῖσαν εἰς τὴν τοῦ Οὐεστμίνστερ Μονὴν, ὑποχρεωμένος μὲ τὸν τοῦ θανόντος Προσάτου Ἀγγελον Φύλακα εἰς διαφιλονεικῆσιν περὶ τοῦ χαρακτήρος καὶ περὶ τῶν ἀρχῶν τῆς Διοικήσεως τοῦ πεφημισμένου ἐκείνου ἀνδρός.

Εἰς τὸ ἐπόμενον τεμάχιον φαίνεται πῶς ὁ Κάουλεϊ τεχνικὰ μὲν ἀλλὰ πλήρως πικρῆς κακοδιαθεσίας πάσχει εἰς μίαν μόνην περίοδον νὰ περιγράψῃ τὸν χαρακτήρα καὶ τὴν ἰστορίαν ἐνὸς τῶν ἐπιτηδαιοτέρων ἀνδρῶν τοῦ Κόσμου, καὶ πῶς τὸν παριστά-

represents him the worst, that ever acquired and maintained supreme power in a great country.

“And pray, Countryman, (said he, very kindly and very flatteringly,) for I would not have you fall into the general Error of the World that detests and decries so extraordinary a Virtue, what can be more extraordinary than that a person of mean Birth, no Fortune, no eminent qualities of Body, which have sometimes, or of Mind, which have often, raised Men to the highest Dignities, should have the courage to attempt, and the happiness to succeed in, so improbable a Design as the destruction of one of the most ancient and most solidly founded Monarchies upon the Earth, that he should have power or boldness to put his prince and Master to an open and infamous death, to banish that numerous and strongly-allied Family, to do all this under the name and wages of a Parliament, to trample upon Them too as he pleased, and spurn them out of doors when he grew weary of them, to raise up a new and unheard of Monster out of their Ashes, to stifle that in the very infancy, and set up himself above all things that ever were called Sovereign in *England*; to oppress all his Enemies by Arms, and all his Friends afterwards by Artifice; to serve all Parties patiently for a while, and to command them victoriously at last; to over-run each corner of the three Nations, and overcome with equal felicity both the Riches of the South, and the Poverty of the North; to be feared and courted by all foreign Princes, and adopted a Brother to the Gods of the Earth; to call together Parliaments with a word of his Pen, and scatter them again with the breath of his Mouth; to be humbly and daily petitioned, that he would please to be hired at the rate of two Millions a year to be Master of those who had hired him before to be their Servant; to have the Estates and Lives of Three Kingdoms as much at his disposal as was the little Inheritance

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νεί τὸν χειρότερον ἀπ' ἑσους ἀπῆλυσαν κ' ἐβάσσαν ἐν ταύτῃ με-
γίστην ἐξουσίαν εἰς μεγάλας ἐπαρχίας.

“... Καὶ σὲ παρακαλῶ, Συμπολίτα, (ἐξηκολούθησεν αὐτὸς
μὲ εὐγενικοὺς καὶ γοητικώτατους τρόπους) ἔπειδὴ δὲν θέλω νὰ
πέσης καὶ σὺ εἰς τὸ γενικὸν σφάλμα, νὰ βδελύττεσαι καὶ νὰ
ἀτιμάζῃς μίαν τόσον ἐκπληκτικὴν ἀρετὴν. Ἐκ τῆς ὅντι
ἐκπληκτικώτερον ἀπὸ τὸ νὰ ἴδῃ τις ἄνδρα ποταπῶν γενεθλίων,
πτωχόν, δίχως καμμίαν βέβαια φυσικὴν ἢ ἠθικὴν ξιφαστικὴν
ιδιότητα (χαρῖσματα τὰ ὅποια δὲν λείπουσιν ἀπὸ τοῦ νὰ ὑπό-
νωσιν εἰς μεγάλα ἐπαγγέλματα), νὰ τὸν ἴδῃ τις, λέγω, νὰ λάβῃ
τὴν τόλμην νὰ ἐπιχειρησῇ, καὶ τὴν μοῖραν νὰ ἐπιτύχῃ τὴν
τόσον ἀπῆλθον ὑπόθεσιν, νὰ ἀφανίσῃ δὴλ. μίαν τῶν ἀρχαιοτέ-
ρων, καὶ ἰσχυροτέρων Μοναρχιῶν τῆς Γῆς; Ἐνθάδε καὶ τὴν αὐ-
θάδε καὶ τὸ κράτος νὰ θυσιάσῃ εἰς δημόσιον καὶ ἀτιμαστικόν
θάνατον τὸν Κύριόν του καὶ Βασιλέα του; Ἐνθα ποδιώξῃ τὴν τό-
σον πολυάριθμον καὶ προστατευομένην οἰκογένειάν του; Ἐνθα κατο-
θόνῃ ὅλα του ταῦτα τὰ ἐπιχειρήματα ὑπὸ τοῦ ὀνόματος μιᾶς
Γερουσίας; Ἐνθα καταπατήσῃ καὶ αὐτὴν κατ' ἀρέσκειαν, καὶ νὰ
τὴν ἐξορακίσῃ ἀφοῦ πλέον τὴν ἐβαρέθῃ; Ἐνθα συλῶσῃ ἐπὶ τῶν
ἐρειπειῶν τῆς τέρας νέον καὶ ἀνέκουςον; Ἐνθα τὸ πινίξῃ εἰς τὴν
νηπιότητά του, καὶ τότε νὰ ὑψωθῇ ἐπὶ τοῦ ὅτι ἐνομιζέτο Βα-
σιλικὸν τῆς Ἀγγλίας; Ἐνθα καταθλίψῃ τοὺς μὲν ἐχθροὺς μὲ τὴν
δύναμιν, ἔπειτα δὲ τοὺς φίλους μὲ τὴν τέχνην; Ἐνθα δουλεύῃ
κατ' ἀρχὰς μὲ ὑπομονὴν ὅλας τὰς πατρίδας, διὰ νὰ τὰς προ-
σάξῃ ἔπειτα δεσποτικῶς; Ἐνθα παρατρέχῃ κάθε γωνίαν τῶν
τριῶν Εὐρωπαϊκῶν, καὶ νὰ δαμάζῃ μὲ ὁμοίαν τύχην τὰ πλοῦ-
τη τῆς Μεσημβρίας, καὶ τὴν πτωχείαν τῆς Ἀρκτου; Ἐνθα βλέ-
σῃ νὰ τὸν φοβῶνται καὶ νὰ τὸν περιποιῶνται ὅλοι οἱ ἄλλοι
ξένοι Μονάρχαι, καὶ τέλος αὐτὸς νὰ συγκαταληφθῇ ὡς ἀδελφός
τῶν θεῶν τῆς Γῆς; Ἐνθα συγκαλῇ τὴν Γερουσίαν μ' ἓνα μόνον
χάραγμα τοῦ καλάμου του, καὶ νὰ τὴν διασκορπίξῃ πάλιν μὲ τὸ
φύσημα τῆς πνοῆς του; Ὁ Κύριος τῶν ὄσων τὸν ἐμίσησαν πρὸς
δουλείαν των, νὰ παρακαλῇται πάλιν ταπεινῶς καθ' ἡμέραν, νὰ
μεταπωληθῇ πρὸς δύο μιλλιόνια κατ' ἔτος; Ἐνθα ἐξουσιαζῇ ζωὴν
καὶ ὑπάρχοντα τριῶν Βασιλείων, ὡς ἐξουσίαζε καὶ τὴν πτω-
χὴν τοῦ πατρικῆς κληρονομίας, ὡς γενναῖος καὶ ἐλευθέρως τὸ

of his Father, and to be as noble and liberal in the spending of them; and lastly, (for there is no end of all the particulars of his Glory), to bequeath all this with one word to his Posterity; to die with Peace at home, and Triumph abroad; to be buried among Kings, and with more than Regal Solemnity; and to leave a Name behind him not to be extinguish'd but with the whole World, which, as it is now too little for his Praises, so might have been too for his Conquests, if the short line of this human Life could have been stretcht out to the Extent of his immortal Designs."

ἴδιον καὶ εἰς τὸ νὰ τὰ ἐξοδεύῃ; ! Καὶ τέλος πάντων, (ἐπὶ εἰ-
 δῇ πότε σωνεταὶ ἡ ἀπαρίθμησις τῶν ἐνδοξῶν του ἔργων;) νὰ
 διατάξῃ ὅλα ταῦτα μ' ἓνα νεῦμα πρὸς ὠφέλειαν τῶν μεταγε-
 νεσέρων του; ! Ν' ἀποθάνῃ ἡσυχῶς μέσα εἰς τὴν πατρίδα του,
 καὶ θριαμβευτικῶς ἐξω; ! Νὰ ταφῇ μεταξὺ Βασιλέων, καὶ μὲ
 πομπὴν Βασιλικωτάτην; ! Ν' ἀφήσῃ ὄνομα ἀνεξάλειπτον εἰς τὸν
 Κόσμον, ὅς τις καθὼς τώρα μικρὸν διὰ τοὺς ἐπαίνους του, ἤθελεν
 εἶσθαι οὕτω μικρὸν καὶ διὰ τὰς κατακτήσεις του, ἂν ἡ βραχύ-
 της τοῦ ἀνθρωπίνου τούτου βίου, ἤμπορούσε νὰ ἐκτανθῇ ὅσον
 ἦτον ἐκτεταμένη καὶ ἡ σειρά τῶν ἀθανάτων του σκοπῶν. »