



The Declaration of a Number of the
 associated Pastors in *Boston* and
Charles-Town, with Regard to the
 Rev^d. Mr. *James Davenport*, and
 his Conduct.

WE the associated Pastors in the
 Towns of *Boston* and *Charles-
 Town* in the Province of the
Massachusetts-Bay in *New-
 England*, being assembled *June 28.* in our
 stated Course of Meeting, and being then in-
 form'd that the Reverend Mr. *James Daven-
 port*, Pastor of the Church of Christ in *South-
 bold Long-Island* was come to Town, sent two
 of our Brethren to inform the said Mr. *Daven-
 port*, that we were then assembled, and should
 be glad to see him.

Whereupon he presently came to us; and
 after a respectful Greeting, we desir'd him to
 inform us of the Reasons of his leaving his
 Flock

Flock so often, and for such Length of Times
 as we had heard of; as also concerning his
 assuming Behaviour in the Places whither he
 had gone; more especially in judging the
 spiritual State of Pastors and People, and too
 positively and suddenly declaring concerning
 one and another, that they were in a converted
 or unconverted Estate; thereby stumbling the
 Minds of many, and alienating the Hearts of
 others from their Ministers and Brethren, even
 to such a Degree that some had withdrawn
 from the Ministry and Communion to which
 they belong'd.

Whereupon Mr. *Davenport* in a free and
 ready Manner gave us such an Account of the
 Manner of God's working upon him from his
 early Days, and his effectual Calling in riper
 Years, as that he appear'd to us to be a Man
 truly pious; and we hope that God has us'd
 him as an Instrument of Good unto many
 Souls.

Nevertheless also it appears to us that he is
 a Gentleman acted much by sudden Impulses,
 upon such Applications of the Holy Scriptures
 to himself, and his particular Friends, Desires
 and Purposes, as we can by no Means approve
 of or justify, but must needs think very dan-
 gerous and hurtful to the Interests of Religion.

And

And in particular, by the Account he gave us of his judging some Reverend Ministers of the Gospel on *Long-Island*, and in *New-England*, to be in an unconverted State, it did by no Means appear to us that he had Reason and Righteousness on his Side in so doing--- Nor do we see into his Scripture Warrant for thinking himself called of God to demand from his Brethren from Place to Place, an Account of their regenerate State, when or in what Manner the Holy Spirit of God wrought upon and renew'd them.

We judge also that the Reverend Mr. *Davenport* has not acted prudently, but to the Disservice of Religion, by going with his Friends singing thro' the Streets and High-Ways, to and from the Houses of Worship on Lord's-Days, and other Days; and by encouraging private Brethren to pray and exhort in larger or smaller Assemblies of People gather'd together for that Purpose: A Practice which we fear may be found big with Errors, Irregularities and Mischiefs.

We judge it therefore to be our present Duty not to invite Mr. *Davenport* into our Places of publick Worship, as otherwise we might have readily done, that so we may not appear to give Countenance to the forementioned

tioned Errors and Disorders; against which we bear this Testimony, both in Faithfulness Love and Care to the Churches of Christ, and also to our said Brother, whose Usefulness in the Church is likely to be still more obstructed by his being deeply tinctur'd with a Spirit of Enthusiasm.

And tho' we are not satisfied that the Rev. Mr. *Davenport* has a Call to preach in the Fields from Day to Day as he has done of late, yet we think it our Duty to bear a Testimony against all those Disorders and that Profaneness which have been promoted by any who have lately gone forth to hear him.

Upon the whole, we humbly beseech the great Lord and Head of the Church, to lead us, and all his Ministers and Churches, into all the Paths of Truth, Righteousness, Peace and spiritual Edification, for his Name's Sake: And we take this Opportunity to repeat our Testimony to the great and glorious Work of GOD, which of his free Grace he has begun and is carrying on in many Parts of this and the neighbouring Provinces; beseeching him to preserve, defend, maintain and propagate it, in Spite of all the Devices of Satan against it of one Kind or other; that however it may suffer by the Imprudence of it's Friends, or by the

the virulent Opposition of it's Enemies, yet it
may stand as on the Rock, and the Gates of
Hell may never prevail against it.

Boston, July 1.

1742.

Benjamin Colman
Joseph Sewall
Thomas Prince
John Webb
William Cooper
Thomas Foxcroft
Samuel Checkley
William Welsteed
Joshua Gee
Hull Abbot
Mather Byles
Thomas Prentice
Ellis Gray
Andrew Eliot.
