

**THE
CRAFT AND CRUELTY
OF THE
CHURCH'S ADVERSARIES.**

By
MATTHEW NEWCOMEN
(1610-1669)
One of the "Ejected" Ministers of 1662.

A Sermon Preached on November 5, 1642 to both Houses of Parliament on the 37th Anniversary of the Infamous "Gunpowder Plot" to Destroy Parliament, the King and all of the Protestant Aristocracy and Ministers of the Gospel in England.



**“The Great Design of the Enemies of the Church, is by
Craft or Cruelty, or Both, to Hinder any Work that
Tends to the Establishment, or Promoting of the
Church’s Good.”** — Matt. Newcomen

DESCRIPTION.

Matthew Newcomen (1610-1669) was a leading Puritan minister in England, and one of the “Ejected” on St. Bartholomew’s Day in 1662. — He preached this sermon to both Houses of Parliament on the 37th anniversary of the Nov. 5, 1605 “Gunpowder Plot” to eradicate all the leadership of Protestant England. The Roman Catholic plot was to explode a massive amount of gunpowder beneath Parliament when both Houses, the King and all of the Protestant Aristocracy and Gospel Ministers were assembled. It was foiled at the last minute when Guy Fawkes, the one hired to ignite the powder, was discovered, arrested and later executed. — Though the anniversary of the historical event was the occasion for the sermon, Newcomen used that fierce opposition to reform in England, as an opportunity to extract truths and principles applicable to opposition and persecution in all periods of Christian history. He uses the experience of Nehemiah and other Jews, who returned to Jerusalem from Babylonian captivity after many decades, as the focal point. As they attempted to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, they were surrounded by crafty and cruel enemies who did not desire their welfare. He unfolds the history of the philosophy, tactics and spirit of God’s enemies directed toward His people in Old Testament, New Testament and modern times. Though preached over 350 years ago, there are many applicable parallels to present-day opposition (including legal and violent persecution) to Biblical Christianity around the world, even by pretending friends. His theme: *“The great design of the enemies of the Church, is by craft or cruelty, or both, to hinder any work that tends to the establishment, or promoting of the Church’s good.”*

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[1642]

MATTHEW NEWCOMEN

(1610-1669)

Publishing Information

Notes for this Digital Version

Biographical of the Author

Title Page

Parliamentary Authorization to Print this Sermon

Preface

THE CRAFT AND CRUELTY OF THE CHURCH'S ADVERSARIES.

Glossary

Notes and Annotations

Scripture Links

Scripture Index

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NOTES FOR THIS DIGITAL VERSION

1. Enclosed numbers (e.g., Arise<33>) indicate *original paging* and are appended to the initial

word of text on each page.

2. Some extraneous material for the present-day reader have been omitted without affecting the author's meaning. For instance, some Hebrew, Greek and Latin words, phrases or sentences and illegible reference citations have been omitted. Indecipherable text appears as [...]

3. A Glossary, Scripture Links and Scripture Index have been included and are according to *original paging*.

BIOGRAPHICAL OF THE AUTHOR.

Matthew Newcomen (c. 1610-1669), English non-conformist divine, was born about 1610 and educated at St. John's College, Cambridge (M.A. 1633). In 1636 he became lecturer at Dedham in Essex, and was the leader of the church reform party in that county. He assisted the elder [Edmund] Calamy in writing *Smectymnuus* (1641), and preached before parliament in 1643. He was a man of many gifts, excelling alike in preaching, in debate and in friendship, and declined many offers of more remunerative service. He protested against the extreme democratic proposals called "The Agreement of the People" (1647), and was one of the commissioners at the Savoy Synod of 1658. On the passing of the Act of Uniformity in 1662, Newcomen lost his living, but was soon invited to the pastorate at Leiden, where he was held in high esteem not only by his own people but by the university professors. He died of the plague in 1669. [1911 *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Vol. 19, page 475].

THE CRAFT AND CRUELTY OF THE CHURCH'S ADVERSARIES, Discovered In a Sermon Preached at St. Margaret's in Westminster, Before the Honorable HOUSE OF COMMONS, Assembled in Parliament, November 5, 1642.

By *MATTHEW NEWCOMEN*,
Minister of the Gospel at Dedham in Essex

*Quid facit in Pectore Christiano Luporum Feritas, Canum Rabies, Sævitia, Bestiarum, Veneuum
Lethale Serpentum?* Cyprian.

Cum sitis Impii Crudeles, Homicidæ, Inhumani, non amplius eritis Christiani, Lucifer Calazit.

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