

“ a few days since, and containing many errors therein, “ generally condemned by all orthodox writers that we “ have met with ;” to indicate the truth and keep and preserve the people in the true faith and knowledge of Christ, and the clearing of themselves to their brethren in England, they protest their “ innocency,” and “ on “ the contrary, detest and abhor many of the opinions “ and assertions therein as false, erroneous and heretical, and whatever is contained in it contrary to the “ Scriptures, and the generally received doctrine of the “ orthodox Churches extant since the time of the last “ and best reformation ;” and for proof of their “ playne meaninge,” they condemn it to be burned in the market place at Boston, by the public executioner. They further “ purpose, with all convenient speede, to convent “ him before them to find out if he will own it, if he “ does, God willinge, to proceed with him according “ to his demerits, unless he retract, both here and by “ some second writings, to be printed and dispersed in “ England.” They also entreated Mr. Norton, of Ipswich (ante-page 180), to answer the book with all convenient speed. In May, 1651, Mr. Pynchon’s mild retraction appears :

“ According to the Court’s advice, I have conferred wth the Reverend “ Mr. Cotton, Mr. Norrice and Mr. Norton about some projects of the “ greatest consequence in my booke, and I hope I have so explained my “ meaninge to them as to take off the worst construction, and it hath “ pleased God to let me see that I have not spoken in my booke so fully “ of the price and merritt of Christ’s sufferings as I should have done for