

" with honor, much respect and love. But when God left him to him-
 " self, in the publishing and spreading of his erroneous books here
 " amongst us, to the endangering of the faith of such as might come to
 " read them (as the like effects have followed the reading of other erro-
 " neous books brought over into these parts), we held it our duty, and
 " believe we were called of God, to proceed against him accordingly;
 " and this we can further say, and that truly, that we used all lawful
 " Christian means, with as much tenderness, respect and love as he could
 " expect, which we think he himself will acknowledge. For we desired
 " divers of our elders, such as he himself liked, to confer with him
 " privately, lovingly and meekly, to see if they could prevail with him
 " by arguments from the Scriptures, which accordingly was done; and
 " he was then thereby so far convinced that he seemed to yield, for sub-
 " stance, the case in controversy, signed with his own hand. And for the
 " better confirming of him in the truth of God, Mr. Norton left with him
 " a copy of the book he writ in answer to him; and the Court gave him
 " divers months to consider, both of the book and what had been spoken
 " unto him by the elders. But in the interim (as it is reported), he
 " received letters from England which encouraged him in his errors,
 " to the great grief of us all, and of divers others of the people of God
 " amongst us. We therefore leave the author, together with the fautors
 " and maintainers of such opinions, to the great Judge of all the earth,
 " who judgeth righteously, and is no respecter of persons.

" Touching that which your honoured self doth advise us unto, viz:
 " not to censure any persons for matters of a religious nature or concern-
 " ment, we desire to follow any good advice or counsel from you, or any
 " of the people of God, according to the rule of God's word. Yet we
 " conceive, with submission still to better light, that we have not acted,
 " in Mr. Pincheon's case, either for substance or circumstance, as far as
 " we can discern, otherwise than according unto rule, and as we believe
 " in conscience to God's command we were bound to do. All which we
 " hope will so far satisfy you, as that we shall not need to make any
 " further defence touching this subject. The God of peace and truth
 " lead you into all faith, and guide your heart aright in these dangerous
 " and apostatizing times, wherein many are fallen from the faith, giving
 " heed to errors, and make you an instrument (in the place God hath