
Beyond New Haven

While dealing with troubles within his godly kingdom, Davenport kept one eye on the events beyond the colony's borders. From the first days of his ministry in London, John had demonstrated a belief in the foretold millennium and a commitment to advancing God's cause throughout the world. Following his settlement in New England, he continued to maintain contact with former allies in that effort, such as Samuel Hartlib and John Dury. He followed the events in Britain that led to the outbreak of the Bishops' Wars between Charles I and the Scots in 1638, and, like many New Englanders, he saw the early efforts of the Long Parliament as offering a chance for the type of renewal he had long prayed and labored for. When Charles I rejected the parliamentary agenda and plunged England into civil war in 1642, Davenport and his fellow colonists supported Parliament and sought to do whatever was in their power to contribute to the triumph of their godly friends.

William Hooke, then serving as pastor of the church in Taunton, within the Plymouth Colony, preached a fast-day sermon on July 23, 1640, which conveyed the feelings shared by many of the colonists. England was, he reminded his listeners, "a country well known to you, where you drew your first breath, where once, yea, where lately you dwelt, where you . . . have many a dear friend and countryman and kinsman abiding." Now, that country was suffering, with "imminent calamities dropping, swords that have hung a long time over their heads by a twine thread [dropping, and] judgments long since threatened, as foreseen by some of God's messengers." His sermon was printed in England—through the assistance of his kinsman Oliver Cromwell—with the title *New England's Tears for Old England's Fears*