

Broadside commemorating John Alden (1687)

A Small Testimony of that great HONOR
due to that Honorable Servant of GOD
and his Generation John Alden Esq;
Who changed this life for a better,
Sept. 12th. Anno Domini 1687. Annoq, Ætatis 89.

The memory of the just is blessed.
The just shall be had in everlasting remembrance.

GOD brought a choice vine to this desert land:
And here did plant it with his own right hand,
And from the heathen's rage did it defend.
The which its root, from east to west did send.
This precious Saint who now is gone to rest,
And lie in Jesus bosom to be blest,
A branch was of this vine, God did remove,
Protect, defend, and water from above.
A man to God's commands that had respect,
And by His word he did his course direct.
A lover of God's Habitation.
A servant of his Generation.
He was according to the Will of God,
While in this lower world he had abode.
Sincere and faithful unto God was he,
True Virtue's friend, to Vice an enemy.
Holy and humble, full of Faith, and Love
To Saints on earth, to God and Christ above.
He many years did serve this Colony,
Administering Justice impartially.
He in this desert many changes saw,
Yet closely kept unto Jehovah's Law.
He Served God betimes, even from his youth,
And constantly did cleave unto his Truth.
On Pisgah's mount he stood, and Canaan view'd
Which in his heart and life he most pursu'd.
On Tabor's mount he saw transfigured
Blest Jesus, which within his bosom bred
That love that made him say, 'Tis good being here,
It's good, yea better than to be elsewhere.
He lov'd on earth, to be with Christ on high:
He did on wings of Contemplation fly.
To God in heaven he sent up many a dart,
Which issued from a truly broken heart;

Which reach'd the ear of God, and such Return
From heaven brought which made his heart to burn.
With Enoch he with God on earth did walk
With Abram he did with JEHOVAH talk.
With Moses he did on the mount ascend,
And to receive God's mind himself did bend
That he such meditations had divine,
Which in Saints eyes did cause his face to shine.
With length of days God did him satisfy,
He liv'd so long, that he desir'd to die.
He with old Simeon had of Christ a sight,
Who was prepar'd to be the Gentiles Light:
Which made him willing hence for to depart,
To be with Him that gained had his heart.
He with good Jacob in his aged state
Did earnestly for God's Salvation wait.
He with Barzillai, being near his end,
His thoughts above earthly comforts did ascend.
He with St. Paul, his course now finished,
Unclothed, is quietly put to bed.
His family and Christian friends he blest
Before he did betake himself to rest.
He to religion was a real friend
And justice, till death brought him to his end.
A man for God, and for his Country's good,
In all relations wherein he stood.

Let ALDEN's all their father imitate,
And follow him till they come to death's state:
And he will them most heartily embrace,
When he shall meet them in that blessed place.
And let New England never want a race
of such as may be fill'd with Alden's Grace.

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