

neighbors, or members of public society, one and the same rule is given to us. We are required in our several relations and conditions, and in all our transactions, to be governed by a fixed and habitual principle of duty to God. It is therefore a great error, that "religion and politics should have nothing to do with each other." That in too many instances they *have* nothing to do with each other, we have much reason to fear; but that every political act ought to be in conformity, to the principles of religion, and may justly be reproved by the ministers of religion if it is not, cannot reasonably be doubted. "We may be honest or dishonest, faithful or unfaithful, in our relations to the state, as well as to private connexions. Political duties are therefore moral duties. What is politically right is morally right, what is politically wrong is morally wrong. Christian ministers and those with whom they are nearly connected have rights of persons, liberty and sometimes property, which the fate of the government and country may deeply affect." "Till within a few years it has been generally represented as a merit in the Clergy to interest themselves in their country's cause; it has been insisted particularly by some of the warmest leaders in our late revolution that this order of men ought to throw their weight into the political scale; and are under a moral and religious, as well as civil obligation to warn the people of the dangers, which threaten their liberty and happiness." On this subject, "the Provincial Congress (of a New England State) in 1774, addressed a circular letter to the ministers of the gospel."

"Provincial Congress, Dec. 6, 1774. It was resolved that the following letter be addressed to the several ministers of the gospel throughout this province.

"Rev. Sir, We cannot but acknowledge the goodness of Heaven in constantly supplying us with Ministers of the gospel, whose concern has been the temporal and spiritual happiness of this people. In a day like this, when all the friends of civil and religious freedom are exerting themselves, to deliver this country from its present calamities, we cannot but place great hopes in an order of men, who have ever distinguished themselves in their country's cause, and do therefore recommend to the ministers of the gospel in the several towns and other places in this colony, that they assist in avoiding that dreadful slavery, with which we are threatened."*

No class of citizens have been more uniform, in their political sentiments, than ministers of the gospel. They have not changed with the times. With few exceptions, they have been, and still

* See the preceding quotations in President Kirkland's sermon delivered May 9, 1793. See also Gordon's History of the Revolution.