

When called upon for a passage giving a divine warrant to erect a building in which the saints of the Lord may stately worship, they are as much at a loss to find the chapter and verse as their brethren who are less exact; yet they subscribe to the expediency of building, and gladly and conscientiously partake of the blessing. If they are requested to furnish a precept from the Lord directing those who qualify for proclaimers to learn grammar in order to speak correctly, it is nineteen chances to twenty if they will make the attempt to quote from either prophet or apostle on the subject, knowing of a truth that all the inspired men are silent on the expediency of learning language; yet they advocate the propriety of taking lessons on the art of correct speaking. Their principles and scruples therefore sometimes betray them, and lead off into bold inconsistency.

To print, furnish, and circulate Bibles, belong to a chapter of services the expediency of which is acknowledged universally; but who ever saw a precept either in the Jewish or Christian oracles, referring to a printing office, a book bindery, or a Bible agency? The man who demands direct inspired authority for good works of this category, may be regarded, and is generally regarded, either as a contentious and stoical quibbler, or wholly ignorant of the spirit, scope, and object of the gospel institution. None of the apostles ever saw a printed Bible. They could not therefore give directions to multiply copies of the scriptures for general distribution through the press. But they could say that "the scriptures are able to make men wise to salvation"—that "the gospel is the power of God"—that we are to "do good as we have opportunity;" and hence the intelligent professor, knowing that Heaven's truth is contained in the scriptures, and knowing that there is only one grand medium through which the scriptures can be effectually distributed, has his eye open to the duty of employing the press for the accomplishment of this most desirable object.

No inspired man ever saw a telegraph wire, and hence we have not the least hint about the use or the abuse of this means of transmitting thought; but if a speaker was engaged in meetings at a certain place, where the prospects required in his judgment immediate assistance, and the new means of intelligence could communicate his wants with lightening speed to a speaking brother a hundred miles distant, he would be sinning against two kinds of light, the light of the Bible and the light of electricity, if he availed not himself of this improvement in the art of communicating.

Before referring to the power of the press in the advocacy of