

themselves, but for the sake of a poor and quiet life." They solemnly entered into covenant with God to be his people, and though often corrected and cast down, they were not utterly forsaken. Let us return to the God of our fathers, and be obedient unto his voice, and he will not forsake us, neither destroy us, nor forget the covenant of our fathers. But if we will not be instructed and amend, the evils, which have come upon us, are but the beginning of sorrows. It is our incumbent duty to pray earnestly for forgiveness and divine favor, nor can we reasonably hope for mercy, unless we humbly and penitently ask it. And in vain do we fast or pray, unless we form sincere resolutions of amendment, and carry these resolutions into effect.

Now we are in tribulation, and all these things have come upon us, let us consider our ways and turn unto the Lord. While his judgments are abroad in the earth and falling heavily on us, if we will learn righteousness and be obedient to the voice of God, he will turn to us; the Lord of hosts will be with us; the God of Jacob will defend us; we shall have the testimony of our own consciences to cheer us; and need not fear what man can do unto us. Amen.

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE PROPRIETY OF PREACHING OCCASIONALLY ON
POLITICAL SUBJECTS.

THE office of gospel ministers does not preclude them from the common privileges of citizens. They are not unacquainted with the rights, which our constitutions engage to them as well, as to other classes of the community. If, in common times, some of them have not voted at the elections of general and state officers, and if they have said less than some others, they have probably read and thought as much, and have obtained as correct information, and have felt as sincere concern for the prosperity of their Country, as have some, who wish them to be silent on these subjects. There are times, when it is evidently the duty of ministers of the gospel, to call the attention of their people to public affairs. This observation is made, not so much on account of any thing said in the preceding sermons, as with reference to the general subject of preaching occasionally on political concerns; a subject much agitated, or rather, which greatly agitates, at the present day.

It is the law of our Creator, that we should fear Him, and keep his commandments *always*. As individuals, members of families,