

When any particular sin becomes prevalent, this duty appears to me to be more imperative than in ordinary cases; more especially if the sin escapes general censure; and the punishment which it may deserve, from those who possess competent authority to inflict it. In such a case, it receives a negative encouragement; and the Church is therefore more loudly called upon to protest that it is contrary to the will of God, and excludes from his salvation. I apprehend this is true of the sin of duelling, as regards the population of this city, at this time. A very aggravated instance of this sin occurred amongst us a few weeks ago; and yet nothing has been done from which it might be inferred by a stranger, that, in the judgment of the Church and population of this city, it deserves condemnation. The public press seems to have maintained a studied silence on the subject; perhaps I ought to say, that the notice which has been taken of it by the press, has been complimentary rather than otherwise; Christian societies have said nothing, at least publicly; and the Civil Magistrate has borne the sword, in this case, in such a manner as to be a *praise*, rather than a *terror*, to this species of evil doing. In these circumstances I maintain it to be our duty, as a part of the Church of Christ, to put forth our testimony on the subject; and faithfully and fearlessly give this deed the character which it deserves; by ranking it with those "things, for whose sake the wrath of God cometh upon the children of disobedience."

It is with this view that I now address you on this