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A SERMON BY

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Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.—1 COR. ix. 14.

To point out nature's laws, what checks, and what is favorable to their development, is the province of the true philosopher. He does not attempt to improve, but labors to discover the works of God. In their number, order, and adaptation to yield happiness to "every living thing," he sees the hand of infinite wisdom, power and goodness, and is satisfied, delighted. So, too, the practical man in his sphere must, in order to be successful, make accurate adjustments in all his ways, to the laws which God has established. To attempt alteration or amendment of these, or in any way to interfere with their divine principles of operation, would be to court failure or disaster. He who believes, or acts as if he believes, that Nature is kind to all her obedient children, kind to those who straightway and uninterrupted place themselves in harmony with her laws, is the successful man. God is kind to all; and these laws are but the way in which He, as a wise and loving Father, ordinarily conveys His benevolence to His creatures in things pertaining to this life. So that science and art conspire, each in its own emphatic manner, to proclaim Jehovah's ways to be the best adapted to promote in things temporal the interests and happiness of man. What is it that pro-

duces so much disease, poverty and disappointment, want of success in trade and farming, but ignorance of nature's laws or wanton disregard of their principles of operation. And the innumerable physical evils to which man is heir are just the constabulary which the Ruler of the universe commissions to punish us for violating his arrangements in the field of nature; whilst, doubtless, as a general effect, physical good is the reward he bestows on those who are obedient to the order He has established in the province of matter. If, now, God's will is inflexible in the fields at which we have just glanced:—if punishment so invariably is dealt out to the disobedient, while success rewards and blesses the obedient, then will every christian admit that His laws or arrangements in the kingdom of grace cannot be violated without incurring, in manifold ways, divine chastisement, and cannot be implicitly obeyed without drawing therewith a recompense meted out in the form of a pleasing and advantageous success, the fruit of His grace.

That the principles stated hold with full force in their application to the subject under discussion this evening, is firmly believed; and their announcement, it is hoped, may aid in securing a favorable hearing for a discourse founded on the law of God for the sustentation of His ministers, as declared by Paul in these plain words: "The Lord hath ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."

The doctrine raised from the text is this: It is God's will and pleasure that the preacher of the gospel should live by his