

the incense of unhallowed fire, and with the mocking of heartless and hypocritical worship? Because they entered his courts and "professed Him with their lips, while their hearts were far from Him?" Or are we thus severely visited, because of the unworthiness, the want of zeal and many deficiencies of him, who has led your devotions and ministered to you in holy things? The LORD knows you are not ignorant, and I feel, in this respect, something was required to remove lukewarmness and to excite zeal and sincerity. Now my Brethren if these shortcomings and misdoings have in any way been instrumental in this especial visitation, let us not stop our ears, close our eyes, or harden our hearts, but "hear the rod and Him that hath smitten it;" let us take warning, and be aroused to renewed diligence and fidelity, sincerity and holiness, that "we may in all things adorn the doctrine of GOD our SAVIOUR." Let us all devoutly pray, that it may through Divine Grace be instrumental in making us "a peculiar people zealous of good works," that we may come forth from the fire of adversity tried and purified, improved in strength and value, as pure gold cleansed from the dross.

My Christian brethren, what is the loss we are this day lamenting, who realizes it? Is it the loss of money, of lands, or of houses? It is something that has a value of a different stamp set upon it. It is the temple of the living GOD, where the Divine presence is promised to dwell, the sanctuary of the LORD of Hosts, the consecrated place, "where prayer was wont to be made," of which it was said, "come let us go up together unto the house of the LORD and take sweet counsel together." The temple before whose altars some have vowed their belief in, and devotion to the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, the one GOD of their faith, and where many have presented and offered their beloved offspring to be baptized into the same faith; to be dedicated to, and received into the arms of that beloved SAVIOUR, who said, "suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

The altar before which some have (I trust in sincerity) knelt to receive from the highest order of our ministry, the prayer for the divine and blessed spirit to rest upon them, where they voluntarily, and I hope heartily, renewed their baptismal covenant.

The altar around which, husband and wife, parent and child, the most aged man and woman in the parish have knelt side by side, and I doubt not devoutly received the emblems of the body and blood of their dying SAVIOUR, have eaten and drank thereof, and had their souls nourished by faith, as their bodies are by food.

That desk, from which has ascended the sacrifice of praise and prayer, it is to be feared, too often from a heart languid and