

*"Let every Minister be careful to observe, and relement in reproving, those faults of his Parishioners of which the laws cannot, or do not, take cognizance."*—Bishop Jeremy Taylor.

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS!

The prevalence of Sabbath-breaking by those who are engaged in the Seal Fishery is generally known, and among serious Christians is generally lamented; and it is with the hope of correcting this besetting sin that I publish, and present to you, the following Sermon.

That there is an awful indifference to religion among the young men in this neighbourhood, cannot be denied; and I am persuaded that the one great source of this distinction is to be traced to the evil communications which annually transpire in the voyage to the Ice; and it often happens that the young leave their homes in comparative innocence, to return the habitual and fearless transgressors of God's positive commands, and the impudent scoffers at "every thing that is pure and lovely and of good report." It is in this expedition, that, tempted by the prospect of gain, and strengthened by the example of hardened offenders, our youth first learn to pollute the Lord's day at sea, and then fill up the measure of the evil, by bringing with them the moral contagion to the shore; and every thing that comes under my own observation brings me to this conclusion—that, so long as this sin continues to reign, we cannot hope to become a society of true Christians, or look for the blessing of God upon our land.

With these convictions, I should be wanting both in duty and affection did I leave any thing undone by which the evil might be diminished; and I feel myself bound, by my solemn engagements at the altar, to reprove the sin and to warn you of its danger. The same feeling leads me to entreat all who are in authority, and all who are possessed of influence in society, to do their utmost to wipe away this mildew from the Christian character of our fishermen; lest by their supineness or neglect they become the partakers of other men's sins, and the sharers of other men's condemnation.

Let it not be urged as an excuse that the Lord's day would still be abused, although the work of slaughter should cease: Doubtless there are some men who would squander away the leisure of the Sabbath in sloth and sensual conversation; but this is not a necessary consequence; and I feel assured it would serve not a little to