

by us;—but it is universal obedience to all his precepts, whether such precepts relate to his holy law or to the ordinances which he has instituted, that will do so. They who think differently labour under a most awful delusion! What was it that brought death, miseries, woes, and calamities into the world, and gave it and everything connected with it the appearance of a wreck—*the eating of an apple was the cause of all*. Think you then, that it is a matter of no importance to trifle with even the least of God's commandments; no, verily, my brethren. There is no one passage of Scripture which warrants us in coming to such a conclusion—on the contrary, it most distinctly tells us that God's revealed will requires universal obedience.—James xi. 10.

Some few of you have taken offence at the plainness of speech with which I endeavoured to impress on your minds the serious consideration of such momentous and all-important subjects; and have not, it appears, expressed yourselves in terms very favorable to me. For your own sake I regret that such has been the case—for my great object in pursuing such a course was that I might arouse you to a sense of your danger before death made you inhabitants of the eternal world.

There are, I am well aware, many highly intelligent—and what is infinitely of more importance—many truly pious, sincere christians amongst the members of this congregation. I am, however, at the same time fully sensible that there may be intelligent individuals in it who are not pious, and I am certain that there are very many in it, who from their situation in life, and worldly pursuits and circumstances, cannot be said to be either very intelligent nor to possess the same opportunities of religious improvement, which many of their more favoured brethren enjoy. The last class of persons to whom I have just alluded, comprises such of our brethren as are engaged in manual labour; and also of our brethren of the military profession, who occupy the galleries. Each of those individuals, though humble he be, has a soul, which is of as much value in the sight of the Eternal God as that of the greatest monarch upon earth. Well aware that the peculiar worldly situation of such persons exposed them to many and strong temptations as regards intemperance, and prevented their professing those facilities for acquiring religious knowledge which others differently situated do possess, I considered it incumbent upon me, not only to make known to them their real state before God, as guilty fallen sinners, and the mercy and goodness of God in the plan of salvation through Christ Jesus, but also to explain to them the nature and requirements of His Holy Law and his indignation and anger against the indulgence in those particular vices, to which, as has been already observed, they are most exposed.—I considered it of far greater importance to instruct such individuals in plain intelligible language as far as I was able, than to gratify and please the ears of any particular person or persons by the use of well turned periods. Our Lord and his Apostles did not spend their time in amusing and pleasing learned Scribes and proud