

of New Jersey, in which he was a stranger, and had never preached; and stopping at a friend's house to dine, was informed, that it was a day of fasting and prayer in the congregation, on account of a remarkable and severe drought, which threatened the most dangerous consequences to the fruits of the earth. His friend had just returned from church, and the intermission was but half an hour. Mr. Tennent was requested to preach, and with great difficulty consented, as he wished to proceed on his journey.

At church the people were surprised to see a preacher wholly unknown to them, and entirely unexpected, ascend the pulpit. His whole appearance, in his traveling dress, covered with dust, and exhibiting a long and meagre visage, engaged their attention and excited their curiosity. On his rising up, instead of beginning to pray, as was the usual practice, he looked around the congregation with a piercing eye and earnest attention; and after a minute's profound silence, he addressed them, with great solemnity, in the following words:—"My beloved brethren, I am told that you have come here to-day to fast and pray, a very good work indeed, provided you have come with a sincere desire to glorify God; but if your design is merely to comply with a customary practice, or with the wish of your Church officers, you are guilty of the greatest folly imaginable, as you had much better have stayed at home and earned your three shillings and sixpence, (at that time the stated price of a day's labor.) But if your minds are indeed impressed with the solemnity of the occasion, and you are really desirous of humbling yourselves before Almighty God your Heavenly Father, come, join with me, and let us pray." This had an effect so uncommon and extraordinary on the congregation that the utmost seriousness was universally manifested. The prayer and the sermon added greatly to the impressions already made, and tended to rouse the attention, influence the mind, command the affections, and increase the temper which had been so happily produced. Many had reason to bless God for this unexpected visit, and to reckon this day one of the happiest of their lives.

The following letter, written by a nephew of Mr. Tennent, the