

wounds which he has received in the house of his friends. Brethren, guard against this sin ; avoid even the appearance of this evil, if you would enjoy the favor and presence of the great Master of assemblies. Thus you will promote the comfort and happiness of your Pastor, and his respectability and usefulness in the heritage of God.

IV. Attend regularly on your Pastor's public ministrations. It would be easy to prove from the word of God and the standards of the church to which you belong, and of which you have declared your approbation, that it is your duty to be punctual in your attendance on the public exercises of religion ; but we prefer to regard it as your privilege. Your minister is warranted in expecting this from you. You have engaged to give him all encouragement in his labors for your edification ; and when he repairs to the sanctuary you ought not to be absent unnecessarily. When the Apostle Peter came to Joppa, the devout Cornelius, who had sent for him, was not only ready to receive him, with all respect, but with his friends was anxiously waiting to receive the expected message. " Now, therefore," says he, " we are all here present before God," Mark well what he said,—*We are all here.* There was not one absentee. There was no apology to offer for those who were not there. They were all waiting for the preacher. Every heart was filled with expectation. And their meeting was crowned with God's blessing. " While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on them which heard the word." It is true the circumstances of that interview were extraordinary ; but it is also true that the publication of the same truths are as necessary and important to you as to them, and that no good christian will thoughtlessly absent himself from the house of God. When your minister preaches, you ought to be present to hear. By absenting yourselves from the house of God, you may miss that very sermon which would have solved your doubts, confirmed your faith, encouraged your hopes, and filled your soul with a foretaste of heaven. By absenting yourself thoughtlessly from the house of God, you slight that Saviour who says by his inspired Apostle, " Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is." We put in a claim, therefore, for your minister at the outset of his pastoral labors among you, that you attend regularly and punctually on the public services of religion. This is for your own decided advantage, as well as for your minister's comfort. If he is bound to preach the gospel of the grace of God, from Sabbath to Sabbath, you are not less bound to enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. If you are Christians indeed, you will not be found during the hours of public worship resting listlessly in your dwellings, or away on some pleasure excursion, or posting up the accounts of the past week, writing to, or