

SERMON.

"The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."
PROVERBS 10 ch., 29 v.

The *harvest* being now nearly gathered into the barns, we should, all of us, I think, and the farmers particularly, attempt to form a proper estimate of the blessing—to be duly grateful for its abundance—to look to the right quarter for the giver thereof—and to see that our disposition and conduct be such as a just gratitude would call forth.

"The earth," said the divine Jesus, "bringeth forth fruit of herself: first, the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear"—and every one of these particulars, though of annual repetition, is most remarkable. It is true, indeed, that the considerate attention of the farmer is not always given to this as it ought to be. The very profusion of the blessings of the Lord renders men careless, as habitual receivers of them; and inattentive to the principle on which they are conferred. "A man now a days" casts seed into the ground, and sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed springs and grows up, he knoweth not how; but when the fruit is brought forth—then, without having either the time or the care to examine into and ponder on the wonder, "immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." If the harvest be a failure or scanty, the farmer appears either melancholy or querulous; if it be abundant, he often appears infidel and ungrateful.

The farmers of this part of the country—though industrious enough in their habits, and kind neighbors, and affectionate parents and relatives, have always seemed to me, in an observation of twenty-five or more years, among the most irreligious people in the world; very few of them, indeed, make their appearance to worship God in the prescribed way in this Church; or when now and then a few appear once, the earth has perhaps had time to revolve around the sun in the interval that elapses before they shew themselves again; and when they do come to Church, they make no offering to God, and they make no do-