

of moral obligation respecting the *correspondence*, in the transactions of men, between their *engagements* and their *performance*. It is impossible that a pernicious spirit of jesuitry should fail to be engendered, wherever accumulating precedents are received, or suffered to pass, for any strained accomodation to the accidents of private sentiment, in the understanding of formal and solemn declarations relating to the execution of a public trust.

But this is not the whole nor the half of the mischief. For what if among the teachers of our holy religion, the sworn champions of the truth of God, the men whose hearts, hands and lives ought to be devoted to the work of bringing their fellow-sinners to know the Saviour,—the appointed shepherds who are to gather and to guide the wandering sheep,—the appointed heralds who are to proclaim salvation by Christ and renovation by the work of the spirit of Grace, as good tidings of great joy to a fallen world—what if among the men invested with this character, entrusted with this commission, charged with these responsibilities,—what if among men who ought to be distinguished as “Masters of Israel” and “scribes instructed unto the kingdom of heaven,” there are those found who are busy in suggesting, more than suggesting, busy in recommending to the minds of their brethren in the world, the rejection, piece by piece, of all which constitutes the value of the Bible,—disparaging the belief of its inspiration,—denying its recorded miracles,—violently wrenching its magnificent and heart cheering prophecies, to give them,—clear and pointed and convincing and precious as they are,—a meaning accord-