

money and other means—that He may send “labourers into His harvest.” True labourers are those only “*who will [and can] teach from the Lord;*” who, from charity share in the compassion of the Lord, and desire to help every one to salvation. Such labourers will often find that they are sent “*as sheep in the midst of wolves;*”—they should therefore be “*wise as serpents and harmless as doves;*”—They should not only feel a fervent desire to devote their whole life and strength to this sacred work, but should also know *how to preach the Gospel*, and so that it may reach the heart and understanding of the learned as well as of the ignorant. They should therefore, in the first place, be of good common sense, not extravagant, not ambitious, not haughty, nor arrogant, but wise, humble and careful, “*not to give that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast pearls before swine.*”—“*The word of God,*” it is said, “*is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart;*” (*) but if this sword is handled with carelessness, and is used in the wrong way, and where the Lord has not commanded to use it, then they are in danger of doing mischief. They may cut off peoples right ears: they may take away from them all inclination to hear further instruction; without the Lord in His mercy restores the member, and heals the wound again.—To such the Lord says: “*Put up again the sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.*” (†)

My dear brethren, let our present assembling and conference be what the Lord requires: a prayer, after the right manner, that He may send forth labourers into His harvest. Yes let us pray for *labourers!* not for idlers, who will accept the Office because it gives them power to exercise dominion, or to gratify vanity; but for such as *will and can* “*FEED the flock of God, which is among them; taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being Lords over God's heritage, but BEING EXAMPLES to the flock.*” (‡)

Our Association is essentially a missionary institution, and the means by which true christianity can be again restored: by which the dissolved state of the world and society can be recon-

(*) Hebrews iv, 12. (†) Matt. xxvi, 52. (‡) 1. Peter v, 2, 3.

structed
the wor
[therefo
ready t
unity a
before