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If time permitted, this subject might be enlarged upon, both for instruction and edification, but we must hasten to the application.

And what can I say? What need I say? Your eyes behold, a deed has been done, brethren, at our very doors, before our eyes, at the bare hearing of which, the heart of every Christian man and woman must sink within them; a deed (the sight of which in the hour of midnight darkness, was terrific and appalling beyond description, which none can fully imagine but those who beheld that devouring flame which completely filled those consecrated walls, who saw those naked beams, and watched that tower whole and unscorched, slowly and solemnly inclining, and settling through the rafters into the furnace kindled for its reception by the sacrilegious hand of man. Truly it fell as if it were saying to its destroyer, who might have been still within sight of it, "look at me, behold me falling, and let it never be effaced from your vision, let it descend with you to your grave, and rise with you to judgement." A deed has been done, what shall we call it? Against whom has the offence been committed? Against the living God? the Creator and ruler of the heavens and the earth, the witness of all deeds open and secret, against Him the arm has been uplifted, against the majesty and strength of heaven the attack has been made! The God whom Christians worship has been insulted and profaned. And O awful consideration, at the thought of which the Christian's heart must tremble, has that daring, that profane and depraved being, who either committed, or was accessory to that act, ever mocked the God of heaven by joining in worship within the walls of that sanctuary, or by kneeling in adoration to the "searcher of hearts;" has the assembly of Christians ever been polluted by that wretched man? and, O thought still more fearful and alarming, *is he among us?* Is that hardened man who neither fears God, or regards man now composing a part of this congregation?" If he is within the sound of my voice, surely he must possess the spirit of a fiend, else his blood must chill in his veins. O God forbid, my Christian hearers, that ourselves, our families and our beloved sanctuary should have ever been within the influence of such a pestilence.

Against whom next in order has this deed of darkness been committed; against the ministers—messengers of the gospel of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, who expressly declares that our conduct towards them is viewed in the same light as if towards himself; this act has been committed against us all personally, against our children, against the cause of religion, truth and godliness, against the peace and welfare of society, in a word, against