

verseness and rebellion against the Almighty. Selfishness, some imaginary pleasure, or unholy gratification, are the sources of all vice and crime, and such as are actuated by these base motives can scarcely be restrained except by Divine judgments."

The preacher, while progressing with his discourse, expatiated on the instructions contained in his text, applying them to those under bereavement by the loss of their Church, and impressing them with God's dealings with His people; that afflictions are sometimes permitted to overtake and visit them, as reproofs and corrections for sin, lukewarmness and backsliding. One sentence, cited from the sermon in the preacher's own words, will suffice on this part of it.

"And whether God afflict His creatures in love or in wrath, whether He afflict them for instruction or for correction, our first duty under the rod is to become sensible of His justice, and that He willeth our good."

After thus deducing arguments from the text, for the inculcation of pious resignation, humility and penitence under the trying dispensation, the preacher approaches the subject of the deed and the perpetrators of it in this wise:

"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 by the sacrilegious hand of man! Truly, it fell as if it were saying to its destroyer, who might have still been 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 judgment.'"

And now the preacher waxes warm while on this part of his discourse. He feels, as it were, the whole weight of this diabolical midnight act pressing upon his