

from whom I ought rather to receive instruction than attempt to offer it. I can only express my regret that this season of such unusual distress, in which the afflicting hand of God has been so heavy upon us, combined with the pressure of an additional and extensive pastoral charge, should have left me so little leisure to prepare for this interesting occasion. Would that we could oftener meet, to take sweet counsel together for our mutual edification and encouragement, to strengthen and uphold each other in the discharge of our duty, and confirm our love as Brethren ! Such is our condition in this country, that never were the aids of union and concert more essential to any. We need all that assistance that is to be derived from a combined and united system of operation among our body. But first, and above all, we need the prayers of each other, and of our flocks. A work like our's that requires such various endowments, such a spirit of diligent love and unwearied vigilance, can only be performed through the strength and excellency of God, and in his strength only can we go forth with any hope of success. If we are the sentinels of the Gospel, and would be faithful to the Captain of our salvation we must be clothed in the armour of light, having on the breast-plate of righteousness, taking the shield of faith, and the sword of the spirit ; we must be "mighty in the Scriptures." These are the arms which, under the blessing of the Great Head of the Church, will ensure us the victory, and enable us to approve ourselves in the sight of God and men; and without these arms we

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