

are, friends and advocates of rational liberty, true republicanism, and good government; and if they believed the present war to be just and necessary, no class of citizens would more zealously advocate it.

It has been observed, that there are times, when it is the duty of the ministers of the gospel to call the attention of their people to public affairs. There are occasions, which require, and scripture, precepts and examples, which authorize it.

Christ says, "Search the scriptures." John 5. 39. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," &c. 2 Tim. 3. 16. "Study to shew thy self approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Tim. 2. 15.

In the scriptures it is said, when the righteous are in authority the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule the people mourn." Prov. 29. 2. The Scriptures speak of "men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do." 1 Ch. 12. 32. They also speak of such as cause the people to err. "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths." Isaiah 3. 12. Shall not ministers occasionally address their people concerning such different characters as are described in scripture? Nehemiah, on account of the general cry of the people, rebuked the rulers themselves, when they oppressed the people. "Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them, ye exact usury, every one of his brother: And I set a great assembly against them." Neh. 5. 7. In the 33d ch. of Ezekiel the duty of a watchman in a time of public calamity is pointed out. "If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet and took not warning, his blood shall be upon him: but he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel," &c.

Much of Jeremiah's preaching related to the political as well, as spiritual state of the Jews, and the nations around them. He was often called to address those, who differed from him in opinion. His commission was, "Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dis-