

## SERMON.

“Hear ye the rod and who hath appointed it.”—Micah ch. vi., part of v. 9

My Brethren, the feelings which I have experienced within the last three days completely batle my powers of description, and if they should this morning obtain the mastery over me, I must crave your indulgence, begging you to remember, that, independant of the confusion and alarm that have surrounded me, and the extremely painful feelings with which I am still affected, I stand before you, under circumstances so highly aggravated in their nature, that I believe the record of the Christian Church furnishes but few, and in this country no paralel.

It shall be my first object to draw your attention in some degree to the instructions of the text, adding such remarks and reflections, by way of application, as our circumstances call for, and my situation has allowed me to prepare.

Alarming and solemn was the complaint which the prophet Jeremiah once made to God against the Israelites. “O LORD, thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved, thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction, they have made their faces harder than a rock.”

This is a picture of extreme hardness of heart, perverseness 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, excepting by Divine Judgments.

The most effectual means for producing that recollection so essential in making us wise and considerate, humble and dependant, is adversity! Why should mortal man delight his heart with selfishness? Why should he become the slave of pride and ambition, and boast himself against God, when all around him tends to prove his weakness and impotency, and the uncertainty of his existence? When alarmed by the apprehension of a Supreme Judge, and sensible of the weight of his displeasure, what resource has the sinner but humility, repentance, and application for God's gracious favor, through the merits of CHRIST? When, therefore, adversity is unavailing, and the kind warnings of Divine goodness, and the severe strokes of God's displeasure are