

was that divine prohibition ; “ Thou shalt  
 “ not receive any gift : for a gift blindeth  
 “ the wise, and perverteth the words of the  
 “ righteous.” Exod. xxiii. 8. As the disciples  
 were sent forth without any provision for  
 their journey, and our Lord said the work-  
 man is worthy of his meat, their labour in  
 the gospel was considered as a reward for  
 their entertainment, and therefore not re-  
 ceived as a gift ; yet, in regard to my present  
 journey, I could not see my way clear in that  
 respect. The difference appeared thus : The  
 entertainment the disciples met with, was  
 from such whose hearts God had opened to  
 receive them, from a love to them, and the  
 truth they published : but we, considered as  
 members of the same religious society, look  
 upon it as a piece of civility to receive each  
 other in such visits ; and such reception, at  
 times, is partly in regard to reputation, and  
 not from an inward unity of heart and spi-  
 rit. Conduct is more convincing than lan-  
 guage ; and where people, by their actions,  
 manifest that the slave-trade is not so disa-  
 greeable to their principles but that it may  
 be encouraged, there is not a sound uniting  
 with some friends who visit them.

The prospect of so weighty a work, and be-  
 ing so distinguished from many who I es-  
 teemed before myself, brought me very low ;  
 and such were the conflicts of my soul, that  
 I had a near sympathy with the prophet, in  
 the time of his weakness, when he said, “ If  
 “ thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray  
 “ thee,