

January Anno Domini 1817.

Sudbury Jan^y 11th 1817.

To the church and religious society in Sudbury,

I have taken the invitation which you have given me, to settle with you in the gospel Ministry, into serious and prayerful consideration, the uncommon unanimity and harmony, which prevailed in all your measures upon this subject, were pleasing circumstances and looked like indications of providence, that I ought to remain with you: the sum also which you offered for my support I esteem honorable, & had it have been to continue during my Ministry, I should have been prepared to give a decided answer, this day in the affirmative, but as it was to continue only whilst I supplied the pulpit, I think it would have laid a foundation, for unpleasant feelings between you and myself. for instance, if I should be unable to preach for a number of sabbaths, I should probably esteem it hard, when sick to be obliged to take my only means of subsistence and devote it to supplying the pulpit, and you on the contrary, would esteem it wrong that I should not fulfil my engagement to see it supplied, And in this way, a misunderstanding might commence which could never be removed, Besides in this method of settlement, I think now that I should never feel myself at home with you, I should feel myself as much a hireling as I do whilst preaching as a candidate, the relation of minister and people ought it appears to me, to be a relation of kindness and affection, he is under solemn obligation to give his time & exertions,