

by embracing a creed, the adherents of which display such a spirit towards one another?" If you are indeed the disciples of Jesus, I am persuaded, my friends, that you do not wish to afford the slightest handle to the enemies of the cross to speak in this way. You would not wish to wound Christ in the house of his friends. Be careful then to love those who are your brethren in the Lord. By avoiding, in your conduct towards them, every thing inconsistent with brotherly feeling, you will take away (as far as you are concerned) occasion for speaking evil of the Gospel from them that desire occasion. Instead of exposing Christianity to reproach, you should be anxious, by abounding in love towards the members of Christ's body, to "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." In primitive times it was a common saying among the heathen, "Behold how these Christians love one another;" and doubtless the singular brotherly love then prevailing had an important connection instrumentally with the numerous conversions which distinguished that period. How good a thing would it be, and how happy an effect might we anticipate that it would have upon the world at large, were the love subsisting among the professed disciples of Jesus at the present day likewise so marked that all men should be constrained to take knowledge of it!

II. Having thus mentioned several reasons why Christians should love one another, I proceed to advert to some of the ways in which their mutual love should be manifested. This has necessarily to some extent been brought out in the illustrations given under the former part of the discourse, and therefore our remarks now may be more brief.

(1.) First of all, it may be observed generally that, if we love the brethren, *we will have a disposition to do*