

faith and hope,—who are journeying in the same path to an incorruptible inheritance, and are professing to be seeking that everlasting country, even an heavenly, where all questions regarding forms and unessential points, by which Christians are now distracted and divided, will be at an end, and conclusively set at rest, and all who are one in Christ Jesus will be united in one loving, and holy brotherhood! Surely, then, we have every reason, among those things which are to be added to our faith, to add “brotherly kindness.”

7. Once more, we are to add to affection, and kindness to our brethren in Christ, love to all our fellow-men, “and to brotherly kindness, *charity*.” The word translated “*charity*” here, as in 1st Cor. 13th ch. and in other passages of Scripture, means, as is well known, “love,” and ought to have been so translated for the purpose of greater perspicuity, and in order to guard against mistakes. It is not, therefore, to be taken in the ordinary sense of the term in common language, as applied merely to acts of beneficence to the needy. This is but one, and though an important one, by no means the highest exercise of the divine principle of Christian love to men. Upon its various attractive features, so beautifully set before us by the inspired Apostle of the Gentiles, in the chapter of the Epistle just referred to, we cannot now dwell. Suffice it to say, Christian charity, or love, extends itself to all, even to enemies. Heaven descended, she eyes at one glance the whole breadth of the earth, and looks with the same benign countenance upon all its unnumbered millions, as alike children of the same Almighty and merciful Father. And the measure of this love which we are to cherish, and to display towards man, as man, is that love which we are required by the strongest motives to bear towards ourselves. “Thou shalt love thy neighbor *as thyself*.” This is a high standard, it is true, for our Christian charity, but it is the standard at the attainment of which we are to aim, and we may remark, that it is one which we can distinctly and easily understand, and apply; while, at the same time, it completely refutes the charge which has sometimes been brought against love to ourselves, by those who have confounded love to ourselves with selfishness. Laying out of view at present the other, and important exercises of this, the grand social principle of the Gospel, it is easy to see the bearing of