

In forming and sustaining these means of advancing the cause of Christ, your Christian liberality has largely contributed, and some of you have made laudable, pecuniary, and personal sacrifices ; but these have been made for Him who sacrificed Himself for the Salvation of a lost world ; and if on a review of the past, regret has been felt, it has been because it has not been in your power to be more extensively useful in those labors of love, in which you have been piously engaged. But, dear Brethren, unless these means are still supported by a corresponding spirit of self-denial, liberality and enterprise—those institutions will loose their efficiency ; or the Lord will commit their instrumental support into the hands of others, more deserving of the honor of being “ workers together with Him.”

While we are employed in adopting and sustaining measures for upholding those Religious Institutions, to which we have briefly alluded, we should remember that unless *we*, as a Denomination, cultivate that sanctifying spirit of personal piety in our hearts, which leads to constant self-examination and prayerful communion with God, the practice of liberality, and all other external duties will be unavailing ; for though we may give all our substance, and devote every hour of our lives to the promotion of such means, as are adapted to the advancement of Religion and Morality, yet if our affections are not spiritually set upon the Cross of the Redeemer—if our hearts are not expanding with spiritual love and zeal, we shall be but barren fig trees in the garden of the Lord. If we expect to bear fruit to the praise of divine grace, we must be living branches of the living vine. Our blessed Saviour has told us : “ I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman,—Every branch in me that beareth not fruit, he taketh away ; and every branch that beareth fruit he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.” While we remember the gloomy seasons of declension that have characterized by-gone ages of the Church, and bear in mind the wiles of the tempter, and the exceeding deceitfulness of the human heart, have we not reason to “ watch and pray ;” to “ have our loins girt about with truth,” and to strive for that constant intercourse with the mercy-seat, which fills the hearts of genuine believers with living faith, and all the graces of the Holy Spirit ? If dear Brethren, ye would be “ the temple of God,” do not forget that the spirit of God *must* dwell in you. In order to prosper in the divine life, and to cultivate an ardent, devotional spirit of living piety in our hearts, we must search the scriptures daily, and be familiar with those great and sublime doctrines by which our creed is distinguished ; which when the Church has been prospering in all ages, have been the principal topics of pulpit discussion ; and which have at all times, inspired with holy zeal the regenerated subjects of Christ’s Militant Kingdom. The meagre yet delusive speculations of many professed Divines of the present age, have, it is

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