

*principles.* A predilection for one particular denomination, and a particular Christian society, is not only natural but necessary. If we are not identified with one of the tribes we cannot be said to be connected with the spiritual Israel at all. Hence it is, that in the New Testament especially, so much importance is attached to what is called *Church-fellowship*. We belong to a denomination of Christians which Lord Brougham represented in the House of Commons "as a numerous, conscientious, enlightened and much to be venerated class of religionists. They are a class of men," he adds, "to whose ancestors England through all ages owes a mighty debt of gratitude, men of whom it may with justice be said, had in the purity of their lives rivalled the earliest professors of christianity, and possessed the proud triumph of having with the zeal of martyrs, and the skill and courage of warriors, founded, by combating and conquering for us, the civil and religious liberties we now enjoy. They were men who ought to be venerated, because they reached singly and alone an eminence of surpassing glory. Their descendants, true to the generous principles of their fathers, still possess in a pre-eminant degree the enviable distinction of exceeding every other religious persuasion in their principles of toleration. With them it is so absolute and unqualified, at all times so enlarged and extensive that even the most liberal and enlightened of the other sects, had not reached to the same degree of perfection." We have quoted this not with a view to excite complacent feelings, because we have been thus commended so disinterestedly in the British Senate, but rather to impress upon our minds the necessity of an *intelligent acquaintance with our principles*, and a steady adherence to them. This is the surest way of fulfilling the great law of Christian charity, and of obtaining the unbought approbation of every enlarged and sanctified mind. Our churches are summoned of God in the present day to bear witness to the *great principles of the New Testament*. There must be a *maintenance of pure fellowship and the manifestation of holiness of life*. The purity of our communion has formed at once our distinction and our honor, and there is need at present for the most vigilant faithfulness; for scarcely ever has there been a time when the temptation has been stronger to slacken our discipline. The intense rivalry existing among the various denominations is apt to touch us with an unhalloved contamination, with the desire for a sudden increase in mere numbers, without a careful regard to character and piety. *It will never do to let down the standard of admission.* Let our churches be filled by men of questionable piety, or by men of no piety at all, then the ramparts of our strength will be broken down, our most cherished principles will be profanely trampled under foot,