

Practice.

PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY.

The Christian may forget—alas! the great majority seem to have forgotten altogether—that the precepts of love naturally flow from the great doctrine of salvation by grace, and that he is thereby created in Christ Jesus unto good works, and ought to be their living expression. We may be very self-complacent over some small matter in which we made a fair show of returning good for evil, or at least in ceasing to quarrel with our fellow Christian; but did we “put on, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering. Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.” Col. iii. 12, 13. It is natural to be well pleased with ourselves when we have taken no active part in the dispute, but mere negatives are infinitely below the sublime thought of the position and aggressive love of Christ in his disciples. “He that saith he abideth in him, ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” 1 John ii. 6. This is the Christian’s standard, and God will never lower it to suit the selfishness of man.

The harmony between the Old and New Testament on this great subject of christian morals is perfect. Love in all ages must be the same as to its nature; it is too expressive in its character to be satisfied with mere negatives, or bare