

another," become under its influence, mild, disinterested, affectionate, generous. Before this new and potent principle what fearful tyrants of the human race are routed. Jealousies, heart-burnings, offences, hatred, variance, tumults, war, seditions, murders, all vanish before the glorious spirit of union, which is no other than the spirit of love.

II. This union is glorious *from its impressiveness*. This is another feature of its glory. Many excellent Christian graces are seen only by our Heavenly Father, or are imperfectly visible to others. Union cannot but be seen by all; and hence its vast power of effect—its impressiveness. It is a sun whose light all see—whose warmth all enjoy. Union, too, implies an influence confined in its operation to no individual; it takes effect on the many; as it is visible to all, so it seeks all; and here also we see the force and breadth of its impressive power. Diffusing every where its happy effect, "it is like the precious ointment upon the head" of Aaron, descending thence "to his beard;" nay, even "to the skirts of his garments;" and like the "dew of Hermon," and that which came down upon "the mountains of Zion;" how numerous the drops, how beautiful, how refreshing! The mighty influence of this spirit, uniting men of the most opposite dispositions and habits, in one strong bond of brotherhood, extorted from the enemies of the early Christians the well known testimony in their favor, "Behold, how these Christians love one another!"

III. But the glory of union is also seen in its power, *a combination for special ends*. And this is no other than a distinguished instance of the often-repeated axiom, "Union is strength." The Scriptures testify the power of union when they declare that "two are better than one;" and that "in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." It is a strength, too, which in many cases alone prevails. Certain results, our Saviour informed his disciples, could only be effected by prayer and fasting; and it is, certainly, no less true, that there are many things which demand, as an indispensable means, that combination on wise and Christian principles, which is the natural result of a spirit of union.

This appears to be involved in the sentiment of the text.