

human reason ; and earnestly would we entreat all such who as yet stand aloof from our Alliance, or do not feel kindly disposed to the objects which we have in view, to consider well the ground which we occupy, the principles by which we are actuated, and the end at which we aim.

The ground which we occupy is that which the Lord himself has covered with " Trees of Righteousness " of His own right hand's planting. They may not all be alike in leaf or similar in growth, but they are rooting in a soil of grace, and are bringing forth fruit unto holiness. Our principles are those of love to all men, but " especially to those who are of the household of faith." A love too pure to be selfish, too expansive to be sectarian, and which glows with too fervent a flame to allow of its being confined within the limits of any Church, but the Church of Christ, " the Church of the first-born whose names are written in Heaven." And the end at which we aim, is the convincing of an ungodly and gainsaying world of the reality and power of that truth by which we have been drawn, and are still held together.

Did we ask men to join a confederacy which had not Christ for its head, or had not believers for its members, well might they demur and stand aloof from our " work of faith and labour of love." But when we ask them simply to receive those whom God has received, to love those whom God has loved, to cast in their lot with those whom God has distinguished by His grace, and to recognise as brethren those whom He has adopted into His family, we confess ourselves at a loss to understand on what grounds they can refuse an invitation so reasonable and loving, or how they will answer to their Lord for the neglect of a duty which He has enjoined, a talent which He has given, and of which He will surely require an account when he comes.

How many are the points to which we might look and find not only a constraining motive to love, but a powerful incentive to co-operation in the Lord's work. Have we not one faith? What need, then, that we should commend that faith to others by our united testimony, that we should seek to dispel the doubts of the sceptic, and the scorn of the infidel, by showing them that Christian love flows as necessarily from our faith, as water from the springing well ; and that as in everyday life, affection is the strongest bond that unites, and the sweetest cordial that cheers, so in the Christian life, amidst