

rious character which that Word sets before us as our pattern. This close adherence may bring out very distinctly the differences betwixt him and many who, though brethren, are "otherwise minded." He must not shrink; however, from the consequences. If separation from those whom, on other grounds, he esteems and loves, should be the result, he separates from them that he may be nearer to Christ. It is in this adherence to Christ's rule that he acquits himself faithfully in the discharge of his own duty, and is in the right way to make progress in the Christian life; for "then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord." It is in this adherence that he acts most wisely and kindly even towards those from whom for a time he may be separated. In the various attainments of the Christian a banner has been given him that it may be displayed because of the truth, and it is the steadfast upholding of this banner that, through divine grace, he may know the blessedness connected with letting his light so shine before men, that they may see his good works and glorify his Father which is in heaven. "Where to, therefore, we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing."

In the improvement of this subject let us learn, in the first place, the spirit in which we ought to act towards our Christian brethren from whom we differ in matters of religion. Amid all the diversities which mark the followers of Christ here, let us not forget that these diversities distinguish those who, nevertheless, are brethren. Let us gladly recognise the family likeness, let us do honour to the grace of God which may be working in them and by them, and, where we may have occasion to observe defects or to condemn errors in the views which they entertain, let us with affectionate interest anticipate the time when even this shall be revealed to them. If we are now better informed, are we not nevertheless just emerging from our ignorance? or rather, are we not, with all the information which we think we have obtained, just coming to understand how little we know? We too have many lessons yet to learn; and though our minds may now be delivered from errors which once possessed them, and which others still cherish, there are farther deliverances of this kind which we need. We have often already been indebted to the forbearance of our more advanced brethren, and we must be yet more indebted to their indulgence. Let us carry the remembrance of this into our intercourse with those who may need the exercise of similar kindness from us. While we pray that the Holy Spirit may subdue the pride, may remove the prejudices, may enlighten the darkness of our own minds, let us remember the brethren whose errors we profess to lament; and let us plead that he would carry on his own