

sults of Christianity. Standing before us as a whole we see how it breaks down the barriers that separate men. Under its benign influence they are drawn into closer communion with each other; they become much more deeply interested in each other's well-being; and then they become desirous of aiding the object of their affection. Here is seen at once one of the most important advantages and benefits of the practice of christian fellowship, viz. :—

1. It presents a practical manifestation of the love of the brethren, enjoined by Christ. "Love one another" is His command. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, because ye have love one to another." We do not repel those whom we love. We do not seek to cover up every emotion of the heart, nor to hold them ignorant of every subject that interests us. We do not look on them with a cold and careless glance. It constrains us to be near them; to seek their society, and to rejoice in it. This was what cemented the first christians. It was proof of the presence of a power never before operating on them. The love of the brotherhood that would not have done this might, from what we know of human nature, have led us to doubt whether a new and divine life had been begotten in them. It was a Scriptural evidence of conversion: "We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren." Community of feeling and interest makes them show their love one to another. This simple, social, and yet spiritual and rational way of ex-