

mation and activity in the paths of religion : As iron sharpeneth iron, so doth the countenance of a man, his friend.

It is to be remembered too, that, as these means are appointed for producing habits of religion in the mind, they are connected with that divine blessing which secures their efficacy. Besides, those whose labours terminate in the honour of God and the happiness of men ; who behold the Lord, by their means, speaking peace to the nations, and sinners bowing before the sceptre of mercy, must enjoy sensations more delightful than all the pleasures of the tents of sin. Members of those societies have accordingly published to the world, that their satisfaction in this great and good work, is such as religion alone can communicate ; such joy and peace, as the spirit of promise descending from above, diffuses in the habitations of Jacob : and the truth of this testimony is proved by their encreasing zeal and activity. These are proofs of their own progress in the duties and consolations of religion ; and they exemplify the rebuilding of Zion in troublous times.

Again, you will farther perceive, that, by the same means, Christian affection and zeal are pervading the Church. The power of religion is gradually breaking down those barriers which have long separated its friends. Those whom the influence of party and its unchristian spirit, had robbed of the benevolence of the gospel, are beginning to manifest that mutual affection, which becomes Christianity. As one family of love, they are drawing more closely together ; and their united labours illustrate the nature of the principles by which they are animated. A view of the present state of those societies which have been formed for the advancement of religion, will show you what affection and zeal are growing among Christians. Every day affords them an encrease of numbers, and of the means of doing good. Their benevolent labours are attracting general attention ; and many in almost every part of the Church, by cordial co-operation, or by the formation of other societies equally benevolent, are manifesting a union of hearts, and a zeal for religion which knows no exceptions in the whole family of man, and no limits but the ends of the earth.

These dispositions are evidences of the power and progress of religion ; for, when the disciples of Christ are of one heart and one mind, He builds up His Church and appears in His glory. It is the established order of religion, that the revival of its spirit in the commonwealth of Israel, precedes the enlargement of the border

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