

cumstances may be sometimes slow, but it will be sure, and we shall have the proud satisfaction in conjunction with all our brethren of whatever origin of raising to comparative opulence and importance a country, which is already acknowledged to be one of the brightest gems in the Crown of England.—Well then might the Poet exclaim, (1) “O England, with all thy faults (for where is there any thing human, that is free from imperfections) I love thee still.” Well may we, my Christian friends and countrymen respond to such a sentiment; and let us shew our love to be genuine, in a steady adherence to fixed principles, in a determined opposition to all unnecessary innovation, and in the manly and judicious support of every measure, public or private, calculated to advance the general welfare.

I must crave your indulgence somewhat longer, whilst I call your attention to the other main division of my subject, namely, the duties, which as members of society we owe to one another. On this head, I shall confine myself to one, as more immediately called forth by the occasion, on which we are assembled, charity, or brotherly love; a virtue in the Christian sense, of so comprehensive a signification, that it may be said to include all the good affections of our nature, to imply the use of all those means, by which we can add to the comfort, or promote the welfare of our fellow-creatures.—See the conspicuous place, which St. Paul assigns to this virtue; (2) “And now says he, abideth faith, hope, charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity.”—Observe also, that in many parts of Scripture God is expressly declared to be (3) “Love itself,” and it is given as a peculiar feature of our blessed Saviour’s conduct while on earth, that (4) “he went about continually doing good.” We have formed ourselves into a Society for the purpose (to use the words of our Constitution) of affording relief to our distressed countrymen, or generally to do all that a benevolent Society ought of right to do.

(1) Cowper’s Task. (2) Cor. 13, 13.; (3) 1 John 4, 8.; (4) Acts 10, 38.