

of piety, and the sinful backslidings of some of its professed and genuine friends. I do not now refer to all those who have made an outward profession, as many have only had the form of religion, while they knew nothing of its power. I now speak of those who have generally been received as Christians by the respective churches where they belonged, although their piety, in some instances, may have been of a doubtful nature. There may not have been much positive evil, but there has been an absence of practical piety and a want of conformity to Jesus. Those churches in the days of the apostles who were most blameable in departing from scriptural doctrine, became most guilty in backsliding and immorality of practice. We find that this was the case especially with regard to the churches of Corinth and Galatia, and we may rest assured that the same cause will have the same effect in our own day. We have reason to fear that too much carnality, decay of piety, and worldly-mindedness, is making its way amongst some of the members of our churches, who, after all, we still hope love the Saviour. The best and holiest of our churches will have their "spots and blemishes" in the present life, but we should individually pray for prosperity of soul, and cultivate a holy conformity to the Son of God. Though we cannot reach perfection in the present state, yet we must remember that those who say they "abide in Christ, ought themselves also to walk even as he walked." Corruption often creeps into the churches of Jesus,

5. *By the neglect of apostolical discipline.*—The proper exercise of discipline in our churches is a very difficult part of a minister's work; yet it is essential to their peace, purity, and preservation. A church that is not scripturally governed will resemble a family without order, or an army without discipline, and be utterly unfit to correct any error, or purge out any corruption that may exist amongst its members. Disorderly persons must be reprov'd, contentious persons must be silenced, error must be checked, while those persons who will not submit to healthful discipline must be "put away from among us." The precious must be separated from the vile; and the members of Christ's church

must have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.

Brethren, this is a day of great energy, activity, and zeal; let us, therefore, so live that it may be a day of eminent piety and conformity to Jesus. As holiness of heart and prosperity of soul are connected together, so the preservation of truth, purity, and expansive benevolence in our churches, are requisite to preserve our institutions in a healthy and prosperous condition. While we pay all due respect to the eminent learning and burning eloquence of our great men, let us remember that a fund of scriptural knowledge, connected with spirituality of mind, purity of heart, and entire devotedness of soul to God, are the most essential and most important elements of the ministerial character. The constant prosperity of our souls, the enlarged benevolence of our churches, and the widening influence of our missionary operations, to a great extent, depend upon our love of the truth, and individual conformity to the Son of God. If we cultivate piety and live in the fear of the Lord, then our churches will "look forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and," in our aggressive movements at home, as well as among the heathen abroad, we shall be "as terrible as an army with banners."

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BAPTISM OF THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS.

The case which we noticed of the baptism of two theological students in the Hudson River by Prof. Ogilby, has occasioned some discussion in the board of Trustees of the Episcopal Theological Seminary and in the columns of the *Churchman*. Prof. M^r Vicar, of Columbia College, appears to have occupied a leading position in endeavouring, though unsuccessfully, to procure a vote of censure on Prof. Ogilby. The resolution eventually was as follows.

"*Resolved*, That this Board and the Seminary are not responsible for the Ministerial acts in administering the sacraments, of the individual Professors of the Seminary, and that such acts do but express the opinions and views of the individuals concerned."

With the merits of the newspaper controversy thence arising we will not