

will and an imitation of his example : And, doubtless, the contention of christians is neither the will of God, nor according to the example of Christ. To illustrate to you the character and will of the deity, would be a mere repetition of those things, which have been often laid before you in the house of God. Permit me only to remark, that love and peace are the substance of the whole ; love and peace proceeding from the grace of God ; love and peace to be exemplified in us, to the honour of his name. He is the God of peace ; and we should be his followers ; walking in love, as Christ also loved us. If, then, there be no love, no peace in the church ; what glory can God receive ? He may glorify his justice, by sweeping such a church from the congregations of his people ; but the glorious excellence of his grace must remain unknown.

DOUBTLESS, you wish, brethren, to reverence the authority of God ; to be living proofs of the healing power of his grace ; and, as the best pattern of honouring him, to resemble Christ. Does God command quarrelling ? Does his grace set every man against his brother ? Did Christ strive with his friends ? He loved his enemies, he loved them even to the death, he died praying for their forgiveness. How repugnant to this, is the contention of christians ! It is just as dishonouring to God, as the broils of brethren are to the father of a family. The highest glory to God is the peace of his church. Contention, then, must be the very worst offering that we can present before him ; and should we bring it into his presence, it will overwhelm us with confusion. If we love Christ, we must not disregard the peace and prosperity of his church. Affection for the brethren, should prove the sincerity of our love to God : And blessed is that servant whom his lord, when he cometh, shall find preserving the peace of his household, and walking in love.

WALKING in love ; this is the true fellowship