

the court of Babylon, there must have been much "looking at the things, which are not seen³," a clear sight of "him, who is invisible⁴;" there must have been the most resolute ruling of the spirit, much meek endurance, a stern self-government, and determination "not to make haste⁵," before even powers could have been acquired, such as God may make use of in executing his difficult works, and, still more, before the will could have been formed to consecrate those powers, "in simplicity and godly sincerity⁶," to the service of Him who gave them all.

2. But it is not only the character of the Saints which calls for faith and patience. Their *work*, and especially of those of them who are set in the high places of the Church, their work is such as to require for its due performance qualities and energies far higher than any which grow up unaided, and of their own accord, in the human heart.

For is not their work to hand down, pure and unimpaired, "the faith once delivered to the Saints⁷?" And who that knows any thing of the power of popular eloquence or unsanctified

³ 2 Cor. iv. 18.

⁴ Heb. xi. 27.

⁵ Is. xxviii. 16.

⁶ 2 Cor. i. 12.

⁷ Jude 3.