

ly set before them. Multitudes are prevented from embracing the gospel of peace from ignorance of its character. Especially in this world of spiritual darkness, where error and delusion so much abound, and men's minds are so ready to yield to them, it is of infinite moment that the plain unvarnished declarations of the Bible should be every where made known.

2. It follows directly from this, that in order to effect the object just stated, that of imparting the truths of the gospel to others when embraced, a wide diffusion of Christian knowledge is desirable. That teachers of divine truth should themselves be well furnished therewith, is abundantly manifest. Apart from the ruinous consequences of leading men into error in matters of so much moment, who could calculate the immense accession which would accrue to the cause of truth, if all who avow it were able to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints? If any one measure is of more consequence than another for the universal prevalence of the Christian religion, it is that of having every member of Christ's kingdom so established in the doctrines of revelation, and impregnated with their truth, as to be a constant witness to their reality. Whereas many are now almost blanks in the world, and move only in the narrow dark circle of their own ignorance, with such improvement as Christian instruction can impart, they might be sources of light, life and joy, to multitudes around them. Every mind is susceptible of expansion, every man is capable of improvement, and he who refuses to fill as large a sphere of usefulness in the world as possible, is sinning against his Creator. The obligation resting on the preacher of the Gospel, and that which devolves on every private member of the church, may differ in degree but not in kind; they are both bound to make known the truth, some in one way, some in another,