

you are sealed unto the day of redemption.”—Ep. iv. 30. “Now he, which establisheth us with you in Christ, and hath annointed us, is God: who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts”—2 Cor. i. 21-22. I would remark that the membership alluded to here is not that of a denomination, but that of the body of Christ—“The Church which is His body.” We are not baptized by one Spirit into a denomination, but into “one body.” “For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles; whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit”—1 Cor. xii. 13. The only membership taught in the New Testament is that of the one body—“There is one body and one spirit.”—Eph. iv. 4. Of this “one body” all who “are washed, justified and sanctified, are members,”—1 Cor. vi. 11. The word of God condemns bodies formed by the will of men. The spirit of God calls them “sects,” or “schools of opinion.”—1 Cor. xi. 19. (Margin.) A unity formed by certain theological opinions and a peculiar church polity, is not the unity of the Spirit at all. That embraces these only who comply with the opinions and polity framed by certain leaders. This embraces all the children of God. God himself is the source of this blessed unity; Christ is its centre, and the Holy Ghost its bond and power. It stands to-day, perfect before God, untouched by the will of man, and every child of God is responsible to endeavor to keep it in the bond of peace.—Eph. iv. 3. The neglect of the children of God to fulfil this responsibility, has led to the formation of the multifarious sects of Christendom, which neither present to the world, the unity of the Spirit nor the unity of the family of God.—John xvii. 21.

But, in the summer of 1842, after I had been in the ministry for nearly eight years, the Lord was graciously pleased to bring me out into a large place, and fill my heart with such joy and peace and assurance as I had never known before. But this did not continue many years. Alas! how could it! The system with which I was connected, and which, despite all theoretical or doctrinal views, however Scriptural, Church articles and covenants, involves a mixing up of true believers with worldly people and worldly ways, seeking the patronage of the world, and even of immoral men, connecting the “congregation” with the “church” in supporting the pastor, and in the expenses of the church generally, cannot but drag down the most