

possible, against self-deception, in what relates to their eternal interests. We are on the other hand chargeable with the most fearful violation of it, if, by neglecting a plain command of the Apostles of Christ, we contribute to administer to that deception. It is surely too far on in the day now to be told, that "we cannot judge the heart, and that it is in vain that we look for any perfect society on earth." These are unquestionable truths but have no connexion with the present matter. No one pretends to judge the heart, but we judge of men's characters by their conduct, and in doing so, we are only complying with the commands of the Lord Jesus, "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Again, though we do not look for a perfect society on earth it would be a very strange inference from this to say, therefore the appointed discipline of the house of God ought to be disregarded. When professing christians sit down together at the table of the Lord the avowed import of the service is that they not only remember the death of Jesus, but that they commemorate it. Thus it is a communion, it is a social act, they remember this event together, they professedly have a marked interest in it. As this is involved in the very nature of the institution, no one who has a proper view of this ordinance, and respects the authority of the Institutor, can be justified in saying he has nothing to do when seated at the table of the Lord with the character of those around him, he does not profess to treat them as christian brethren. Suppose for a moment Paul had visited Corinth a short time after he wrote his first epistle to the Church planted in that city, and that he found among them the person mentioned in Chap. 5, or any other such characters as he there commands to be put away. Suppose him conversing with one of the members of the church, and inquiring why this irregularity was permitted.—We may conceive this individual answering, "It is very true, such characters are still among us; your command is not obeyed, but it is no concern of mine; the Pastor should have