

ever, that I scarce know what to name it, whether to call it a spurious Elijahism, or a religious Hypochondria. It is certainly a spirit of discouragement that sees nothing only on the "shady side." Like Israel, when they came to the Red Sea, it forgets that God is on the throne, and has not strength to add to its faith courage, for it sees nothing but death and ruin hang over the churches. It gives up the idea that the gospel is ever going to take the world, and says there is no use of preaching to sinners, we must right up the churches on the point of order—this reformation is all wrong, and must be reformed—we must have a more "efficient eldership," and better regulations about supporting preachers—the churches must be awakened to the subject, to educate young men, and thereby qualify them to take care of the churches—it cannot be expected that our farmers and mechanics can feed the lambs of the flock—but we want young men of learning and talent, that can meet and stop the mouths of gainsayers.

A timorous captain at sea might as well say to all on board: Our vessel is rotten, and we are just ready to be dashed upon an iron bound shore, and unless you can construct a new vessel there is no hope of safety. Such language would paralyze the whole crew, and fill them with despondency and destroy all courage to act.

And how many young converts, as well as old ones, too, who were weak in faith, have become discouraged and said: I started too soon. I thought all was right and the vessel good, and the pilot skilled in steering safely into port. But alas, it is all a mistake.

Brethren, I don't like to hear such preaching. Neither do I like to hear their doleful strains, when they sing the church's desolation. It is not the language of either faith or hope, but the language of Israel: "Why are we brought out into the wilderness to die?"

The alarm, in my judgment, is needless. True, there are dangers, many and great. Dangers that must be guarded against. But I fear the evil workings of these spirits of which I have spoken far more than our want of a knowledge of order, or of educated young preachers, who will be tempted to cater to the will of these spirits, to secure employment and become popular in the world. If these spirits can be cast out, order will be brought around and preachers of the right kind will gradually be supplied. But maturity can not be expected in a day.

When I think that we have, with only the Bible in our hands, struggled and fought our way out of sectarianism and infidelity, and when