

and harmonising the largest and most cordial Christian liberality with the strictest personal conscientiousness? A child of God cannot do wrong in acknowledging as brethren and sisters, those whom God acknowledges as members of his family. One child of God may not reject another because of any difference of opinion. Those whom God has saved do not differ on points essential to salvation, but only on minor points; and these are matters in which they should "forbear one another in love."

Should we not, therefore, conclude that the General Rules of our United Societies were framed with the design of forming a platform of real and Apostolic Christianity, broad as the renewing work of the Divine Spirit, and as the charities of the most tender and enlightened love?

Finally, I ask, can any other interpretation harmonise Wesley's General Rules with Wesley's own summaries of them, and express allusions to them? With our 13th Article, which defines the "visible Church" to be "a congregation of faithful men?" and with the inspired delineation of the primitive and true Church, as the Church of the spiritually regenerate, "the household, or family, of the living God?"

---

## WORKING POWER.

---

BY THE REV. W. J. HUNTER.

---

"Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion."—ISAIAH. lii. 1.

---



LONG and grievous was the captivity of the Jewish Church. By the rivers of Babylon they sat down and wept when they remembered Zion. Thoughts of the past and of the future united to becloud the present, and despondency cast its dark mantle over their weary hearts and fainting spirits. Then they addressed themselves to the Almighty, beseeching him to stir up and exert his power in their behalf, as when he delivered them from Egyptian bondage: "Awake, awake; put on strength, O arm of the Lord: awake as in the ancient days, in the generations of old." But God was no idle spectator of their troubles. He was willing and waiting to deliver them, but *they* were neglecting to use the means, by which alone they might reasonably expect deliverance,—hence he retorts upon them the accusation, and says: "Awake, awake; put on *thy* strength, O Zion." Do not complain of me, as though I were inattentive to your welfare; but exert the strength you have, or may have, and in the diligent use of that expect my promised blessing.

I. WHAT IS THIS STRENGTH?—I answer: 1. *It is not intellectual strength.* This is, indeed, one of the highest types of strength in the world. A great intellect, fully developed and highly cultivated, will always command attention and respect; but the strength mentioned in the text is not intellectual strength. Neither is it—2. *Financial strength.* Money is a great power in the world. It creates and sustains commerce, and pushes forward all those