

bedience to the natural laws, is immediate—sensible—palpable. Hence there can be no deception. But the blessings to be secured by obedience to the spiritual laws, or the curses to follow breaches of the spiritual laws, are in their fullest sense more remote;—they are “unseen.” Now remember, our experience teaches us when we are neglecting the natural laws; while the word of God teaches us when we are neglecting the spiritual laws; therefore we cannot be deceived if we follow experience in the one case, and the word of God in the other. We are punished or blessed in the one case by our experience. We shall be judged in the other by the word of God.—John xii. 4.

The word of God teaches us that a man must be generated by the Spirit, and born of the water. “Except a man be born of the water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” What then shall we think of him who will dare to assert that the Spirit is essential and the water non-essential; or that the water is essential and the Spirit non-essential? We think he is impious. Why? Because the *word of God* contradicts his assertion. If we neglect to take food we die a natural death. If we neglect to take spiritual food we die a spiritual death.

“Do this,” said our Saviour when he instituted the supper, “in remembrance of me.” Can we call this ordinance a non-essential? Can we remember Christ as well without partaking of the supper as with? Why did he institute it then?

But some are ready to cry out “You are making the ordinance saving.” To such I say—that I only wish to develop *truth* by analogy; to justify the character of God, and show the dignity, the authority, the importance of the institutions of his church. It is not for us to say what is saving and what is not saving. It is for us to submit to all the requirements of God without doubt and quibbling. God who formed the sea, and gave rules to the great deep: “Hitherto shalt thou come, *but no further*; and here shall thy proud waves be stayed”—the same Jehovah has marked out our path—“hitherto shalt thou come.” We must not fail of discharging any duty; we must not omit obedience to one law; “and here shall thy proud waves be stayed,”—we must not try to do more than he has commanded; we must not try to add to that which is complete and perfect, but restrain the violence of our minds, and the bold presumption of our hearts.

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book: If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things that are written in this book.”—Rev. xxii. : 18.

EDMUND SHEPPARD.

AN ADDRESS

To all the congregations of the one faith, built upon the one foundation, in the Province, on the propriety of co-operating for the extension of Messiah's Kingdom.

BRETHREN IN THE LORD:—The time, the full time, has doubtless