

attainments, as any of their contemporaries, who may oppose them, but who having been providentially led, to abandon their former party motives and preconceived notions, and to adopt in practice, as well as principle the Bible alone, as their religious teacher, and rule of faith, seem, to have thereby become better qualified to teach, and more consistent and impartial witnesses to testify to others, simply, what the Bible bids men to believe and to do, that they may attain peace and holiness in life, a good hope at death, and at last eternal life, than had they continued under circumstances, which all must admit, have often a tendency to bias the mind to interpret, and to identify the statements of the Bible, with another standard than itself ; where a particular confession of faith, or system of theology, has been previously adopted and assumed, as best shewing the true *sense* of Scripture, or where peculiar views or practices, are prejudged to be most expedient, by a party, whose interests we are determined to support—though it must be self-evident, that as it is impossible all can be right, and very probable, that on some subjects, all may be wrong—scripture must necessarily be perverted, when mutually forced by each party to speak so decidedly, as is done, in its own favor.

In the present divided and contradictory state of the religious world—is it an incredible thing, that God may from time to time providentially lead some of his people of different denominations, (to realize evils which all admit to exist, and all profess to lament, and to pray may be remedied,) at any cost, to abandon every mere party motive, and to devote their efforts for the union and for the interests of all ; to search the Scriptures without any gloss, or any temptation to alter or to modify its precise teaching and requisitions ? or that these, from the love of truth, and of their fellow Christians, (without respect of persons or party,) which the Bible is sure to inculcate, may usefully impart to others, the fruit of their labours, and the advantage of their experience ?

Now it is a fact, that there are in different parts of Great Britain and America, Communities of Christians, said to be upwards of 150,000 in numbers, who (often without consent, knowledge or connection with one another,) profess to have been influenced by such motives—to have relinquished all mere party interests, and human opinions in Religion—and to have adopted the Bible as their only rule of faith—and as far as they can, with the blessing of God, to have conformed to its plain and obvious