

full of sympathy for the wants of perishing men. Clad in beautiful garments the Church has gone forth, pity in her eye, love in her heart, and the cup of life in her hand, to invite the weary to rest in Christ. The bearing of all this is to bring on the day when the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth.

In the midst of this activity, we must take heed of substituting zeal and effort in a good cause, for a personal interest in the Redeemer, or of counting any effort meritorious to salvation in the sight of God. Nevertheless, the duty standeth clear of supporting liberally, prayerfully and perseveringly, every good work through which the smiles of the Redeemer rest on men.

*The frequent discussion of great moral and religious questions is a prominent feature of the age.* Through the advocacy of the friends of truth, and the opposition of its foes, mighty forces are brought into play to work out great results in the providence of God. The enemy may be at work, no less busy are the friends of righteousness in counteracting the progress of error. Strength is given to those valiant for the truth to turn the battle to the gate. Infidelity and superstition ply their resources to undermine the citadel, yet as in former attacks defeat ended their efforts, so do we hope to see the banner of truth borne aloft and carried triumphantly forward. Antiquity is now no shield to protect from investigation whatever wears its mark. A spirit is abroad which is disposed to prove all things, and may we not expect to hold fast that which is good. In the sifting process we wait to see the gold come forth freed from alloy. In the meantime we take it as an augury for good, that attention is commanded by questions of a moral and religious character in high places where but a few years ago, the same subjects would have met with neglect or contempt. At such a time how precious is the advice, "buy the truth and sell it not."

*We believe we can trace the growth of sympathy and love among different branches of the Church of Christ.* There is a oneness in Christ's church. Jesus prayed that his people might be one, that the world might believe. Love is the crowning virtue of religion, and the mark of true discipleship. Divisions have alas sadly marred the beauty and usefulness of many churches. We now see a healing of divisions going on. The wall of separation stands not so high between different religious denominations as formerly. Some bodies of similar organization have united. Others are drawn nearer to each other. In prayer-meetings, especially in the world's prayer-meeting, brethren of different names have with one heart and one soul breathed out strong supplications for the world's conversion. This sign of the times is particularly cheering as commanding attention to the spiritual unity of the true church of Christ. In such a time as this, we ought to guard against all bitterness and strife. Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

*Lastly, we are disposed to view this as an age of revivals and of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.* Means may be multiplied to a great extent, yet where there is no power from on high all is in vain. That power has been felt in a marvellous manner in many lands. Need we refer to the precious records of grace with which our hearts have been cheered in recent times. Sudden awakenings, widespread and lasting impressions, deep interest in religious truth, the works of the devil put aside, multitudes flocking to the Saviour: of these we have heard, and in glad surprise have said, what hath God