

the Church on the doctrine of baptismal regeneration, the power of the keys which Christ himself has conferred upon his own priesthood, and every other vital truth of the Holy Gospel, simply because that in spite of them God has retained these truths in the Church only: the sects being blinded. And so long as they remain unattached to Christ's mystical body, the Church, it is impossible that they should know anything at all about them, for "Out of Zion the perfection of beauty, God hath shined."

The second hindrance which I shall name is sensuality. Under this head I include all kinds of intemperance and luxury in meats and drinks, all impurity, or every species of fleshly lust that war against the soul. Intemperance in food, and insobriety in drinking, are sad enemies to the clear cool, and regular operations of reason, and most wretchedly spoil all attempts for the improvement of the mind, and much more do these lusts unfit the soul for the contemplation of the sublime truths of the gospel.

Our great Master, who knows our frame, understood what he said when he cautioned his own disciples, "Take heed, and beware, lest your heart be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness," Luke, xvi. 34. "Flee youthful lusts," 2 Tim. ii, 22. "Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul," 1 Peter. ii, 11.

Indolence of either body or mind is a fearful vice. It consists of sauntering about, doing nothing at all, or in doing things that have no respect or tendency to our main end in life, and it is hard to say which is worst, to do nothing at all, or to do nothing to good purpose.

It is a matter of eternal importance for a student, or a young clergyman to know how to employ every part of his time in a discreet and advantageous manner, so as to preserve his health of body and cheerfulness of mind, and to make all his studies subservient to the grand end, the glory of Christ and the happiness of souls.

Imprudence is another sad hindrance to our being in the things of God. Prudence will guard us from foolish actions which hurt our temper, our studies, and our usefulness.

I must pass by the imprudence of too much study, especially at night, as well as too little. An ill choice of books, and buying more than one can read and use to advantage, is another instance of imprudence to which many are very liable. The only way to avoid it is resolution, and a firm guard over ourselves, with a distrust of our own judgment. This will excite a young person particularly to seek the advice of tutors, and to abide by that advice, which if done will surely save the party from a great deal of vain expense, and repentance in future life.

The last instance of imprudence I shall mention is the neglect of reading the Holy Scriptures as the very first book every morning. Prayer without this will not be well performed, and if we think that any other good book will do as well, we shall find ourselves mistaken, and smart for our folly all the day. God is a most jealous Being; he loves his own book, and he sees whether we prefer his holy volume above all other books. He looks keenly on our temper and practice, and if we, in our great wisdom, think it more for our interest to read other books, he