

Such are the mingled feelings of sorrow and of joy which a review of the course of the Evangelical Alliance gives rise to. We have much to mourn over, because we have yet made so little progress, and reclaimed so little land from the wilderness of our corrupt nature for the cultivation of the grace of love. We have much to be thankful for, in that hitherto the Lord has helped us, and that He is even now inclining the hearts of many to cast in their lot with us, and to say we will go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.

Still we cannot conceal the fact, nor is it well that we should do so, that our cause has been far from receiving that measure of support and encouragement from Christian ministers and Christian men to which it has been fairly entitled. Were the manifestation of Christian unity a mere matter of taste which individuals might exercise or not at their pleasure, or were even the neglect of it to be numbered amongst those things which are lawful, however inexpedient, we might then be content to give silent vent to our sorrow, or to speak of it only to Him who seeth in secret. But when we have to deal not with a question of mere choice but of bounden duty, when God's word is so plain on the subject that he who runs may read, we dare not do otherwise than lift up our voice like a trumpet and sound an alarm in God's holy mountain.

What we would earnestly desire and pray to be enabled to do, is to urge upon all Christians, the recognition of that brotherhood which results not from uniformity of worship or similarity of creed, but from adoption into God's family, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. We speak not now to those whose views of Gospel truth have become distorted, or whose spiritual apprehension is bounded by the narrow limits of the denominations to which they belong. Gladly indeed would we reason with any brother, however erroneous his judgement, or untenable the position which he sought to occupy. Departure from the simplicity of the Gospel, is never to be visited with scorn, but to be mourned over with pity; and the more fatal the error into which any have fallen, the more need of tenderness to convince such, and of gentleness to lead them to retrace their steps. But at present our business is not with those who are involved in the midst of error or given over by a strong delusion. Rather would we speak to heaven-taught and heaven-directed men; to such as value the word of God more than the traditions of men, and whose desire is to walk by the noon-day light of revelation, and not in the dim twilight of