

shall *first* make some remarks illustrative of the fact that the discord, which is so extensively prevalent, results from the sinful passions reigning in the hearts of men; *then* show that nothing but the Gospel of the grace of God is adequate to subdue men's sinful propensities; from which, *in fine*, our conclusion will be obvious, that the peacemaker is he who uses his endeavours to promote the spread of the Gospel.

I. In the first place, *discord is the offspring of sin*. It is because the world is full of sin that it is full of discord. The various lusts of the human heart are the fires that keep the caldron of contention boiling and bubbling up.

The wars, for instance, which have, in various ages, desolated the globe, and which exhibit strife in its most gigantic proportions, are mostly traceable to the sinful principle of *ambition*. An Alexander, a Cæsar, or a Bonaparte, is fired with the desire of displaying his military genius, of extending the limits of his empire, or acquiring renown as a conqueror. To gratify this passion wars are undertaken,—the wealth of kingdoms is expended, and their commerce ruined,—the fruits of the earth are destroyed, and cities reduced to ashes,—myriads upon myriads of human beings, in the noontide of their days, full of life and hope, are swept off to a sudden grave,—widows and orphans innumerable are thrown into lamentation,—and the direst miseries overflow, like a flood, scenes where order and prosperity were accustomed to prevail. Nor is the influence of ambition seen merely in the contests of nations. We every day perceive it working discord between private individuals also. How common is it for the disappointment suffered by an unsuccessful candidate for some trivial post of authority or distinction, to rankle for years in his mind, alienating him from all who have been in any way concerned in his defeat, or who have not been sufficiently