

sition, happiness in death, and an earnest desire for heaven and glory."\*

As it is our design, in this Epistle, to call your attention to this all important and soul transporting subject, we would shew our care for your souls, by pointing out some evils necessary to be avoided, in order that your communion with our God may not be interrupted: and in so doing, we trust, we need not caution you against flagrant crimes; (as we believe there are no notorious offenders in any of our Churches,) but such evils as are more secret, yet not less inimical to the life of God in the soul, of which there are many we might name, were we at liberty to descend into particulars. We take the liberty to mention three, which are, avariciousness, a thirst for worldly honour, and a cold, formal spirit in devotion.

1st. Avarice is that principle in the human heart which induces men to desire more than the Providence of God, with honest industry and prudence, puts them in possession of; or it is an immoderate love to, and desire after riches, attended with extreme diffidence of future events, making a person rob himself of the necessary comforts of life, for fear of diminishing his riches. Hence the frequent mention of the *evil eye*, so hateful to God; "*covetousness*, which is denominated *idolatry*; and the *love of world*, which stands distinctly opposed to the *love of God*. Now brethren, as ye profess to be "risen with Christ," "lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset you." "Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." Shew to all, that the world is not your treasure, or greatest good. Let all see that your "treasure is in heaven," and your hearts there also. For, if ye indulge in an undue, or criminal attachment to the things of this transitory world, ye cannot commune with the ever blessed and glorious God.

2d. Worldly honour. It is natural for men to wish to be thought much of; and, in a certain, limited sense, such a disposition is justifiable; "A good name is better than precious ointment." Neither do we think that the people of God should refuse to accept posts of honour, and profit, if the Providence of God should call to them; for then, we think

\* See *Bucks Theological Dictionary*—*Word Communion*.