

godliness has to a certain extent had, in the land of our fathers, since the days of the Reformation.

In exhorting you to the practice of family catechising, we would remind you of the use which may be made of those FORMULARIES OF SCRIPTURE DOCTRINE, which the Church has adopted for exhibiting her faith to the world. These were drawn up by men who had been deeply taught in Divine Truth. They are plain, methodical, compendious, and, yet also, minute; and they appeal so constantly for the truth of their statements to the Bible that none who use them are in danger of being led away from it. Yet, after all, THE BIBLE is the very fountain of inspiration, and we would have you to draw daily from it for yourselves and for your children. It is in reference to the words of God as they were spoken by himself that the commandment runs: "Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." We desire that your faith may be founded not on the opinions of men, but on the word of the living God. And the prevalence of gross error around us, some of which seeks its support from new Revelations, makes us jealous of saying any thing that might even seem to countenance the deceivers who are abroad, in their attempts to introduce an authority diverse from that of the Apostles and Prophets of our Lord.

We may say this at least, of the Formularies of our Church, that their Scriptural soundness has been witnessed to by the present Churches of the Reformation; and that, in no age, either before, or since that event, has the life and power of godliness been long maintained, when the doctrines which they contain have been abandoned.—And without arrogating any undue authority for them, we do also say, let none of you lightly give up their doctrines, for those which new teachers may bring to your ears.

We know that the zeal of false teachers now abroad, their pretensions in some cases to apostolical authority, as well as to piety and disinterestedness, are very specious; and are too often successful in turning the confidence of those to whom they address themselves. But need we remind you, Dear Brethren, that the Scripture teaches us to expect false teachers, especially in times like the present, of lukewarmness, division, and corruption. A zeal, fervid as was that of the ancient Pharisees, has often been put forth by the propagators of error gross as was theirs, shaming the coldness of the teachers of a purer faith. The clothing of the sheep has often concealed the ravening ferocity of the wolf. And now, as in other days, the horns of the Lamb may be seen, where the spirit of the Dragon prevails, and his voice may be heard.

Hold fast, then, the form of sound words in which you have been taught, and give way neither to heresies nor superstitions ancient or modern. Charity is to be exercised to all, even to deceivers and the deceived. But remember, that error itself, is no more an object of charity than is sin. It should ever be hated and shunned, and that in proportion to the dishonour which it does to the oracles of God and the Kingdom of his Son. Christians should contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the Saints. And oh, that each of you would consider how much you can do, yea, and ought to do, for that FAITH, how humble soever may be your gifts and contracted your sphere.

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