

feasted! On the very same principle, when Christians join in religious fellowship with unbelievers, they by their conduct declare, that they esteem them as fellow-partakers with them in all the blessings of pardon, sanctification, and eternal life! And while this is the language of the Christian's conduct, it is in vain that he attempts, by any other means, to persuade them that it not in his opinion. It is easy to see what a snare this may become to deluded souls, and what a widely extended mischief must result from its general adoption in what are called Christian countries. Unrenewed men love and cherish the deception which helps to keep their consciences easy while living in sin—which says, peace, peace, while there is no peace; and surely of all means of deception, access to what are called church privileges,—fellowship with Christians in church connection, is the most extensively successful and efficacious! It may safely be asserted, indeed, that if profaneness and infidelity have slain their thousands, this snare of the Christian's making has slain its ten thousands. I would, therefore, entreat the Christian reader to inquire seriously, whether he be not found contributing to harden and ruin the souls of his fellow-sinners, by holding religious fellowship with them in this sacred institution, while he knows them to be living without God, and without hope in the world. Is it not deceitful—is it not cruel in the extreme, to contribute, to foster in their minds an opinion which you know is false, which you know will prove ruinous to their souls? You will, perhaps, be disposed to reply, “we are not authorised to judge the heart.” So say I. But *we are required* to judge the life, and from the life to infer the state of the heart. “By their fruits ye shall know them.”

What room there is for thought and solemn action, in connection with the purity of the House of God! Constant and faithful, and self-denying effort is needed to maintain and illustrate that important article of the Apostle's creed, “The communion of saints.”

A CHURCH WHOSE LEAF DOTHT NOT WITHER.

In these days of oft-recurring revivals, a thriving, working church is no rarity. In England and Wales, in Ireland and Scotland, not to mention regions nearer home, there are more of such to-day than ever before. Here and there throughout Germany and Switzerland their presence is being manifested, imparting charms to those lovely regions which, to the eye of a Barnabas, are far more attractive than Nature's richest adornments.

But alas! how much of the goodness of Zion is like that of Ephraim of old, and may be compared to the morning cloud and the early dew, that soon pass away! It is not easy to find churches that for three or four score of years have maintained, without apparent abatement of vigor, their first works. Such evergreen plantations are rare. We invite our readers to accompany us on a visit to one of these—endeared perhaps to a larger number of Christian hearts in heaven and on earth, than any local church now existing, and exemplifying the beautiful ideal of Dr. Watts—

“There grow thy saints in faith and love,
Blessed with thine influence from above;
Not Lebanon, with all its trees,
Yields such a comely sight as these!

“The plants of grace shall ever live;
Nature decays; but grace must thrive:
Time that doth all things else impair
Still makes them flourish strong and fair.”