

mind the incidents of loving intercourse, and the forms and faces of those who had more recently passed from among them into the shades of death; after holding momentary communion with the dead, they would turn to the living; and amidst the gowan decked, grassy hillocks, which modestly marked where the ashes of their kindred for many generations reposed; with kindly greeting—expressed with a solemnity and earnestness becoming the scene—they cemented the bonds that united them as Christians and friends, and joined them to every other member of the same spiritual family whether in earth or heaven.

Can we doubt the ennobling influences of such scenes and associations? Would it be wise or prudent, rudely to disturb with schismatic strife, a unity cherished by such sympathies and hallowed by such holy associations? Would it be Christian, “doting about questions and strife of words, whereof cometh perverse disputings,” to set in hostile array those, whom God sent his Son into the world to bind in love—especially if his own blessed word be left free and unfettered to exert its sanctifying power on the consciences and conduct of men? Christianity is a religion of love and concord. Its practical bearings tend to bring all the families of the earth into one, in Christ. This is the special work of the Church. Let it be ours to hasten forward this glorious consummation, by edifying one another in love, and establishing in our social intercourse, the pure moralities of Christianity, on which the peace and prosperity of the nation rests.

A second element in the Parochial system, that has a great moral influence on the community, is the Eldership. We will not now advert to those functions of the office, that are purely ecclesiastical, but confine our remarks to that department which relates to the inspection of the morals of the Parishioners, and the ministrations of the Church to the temporal wants of the poor.

An agency more scriptural, more in harmony with the Catholic spirit of Christianity, could not be instituted than a well appointed Eldership. Selected from every rank and condition of society, the distinctions of life laid aside,—and the highest nobles in the land proud to take their stations by the side of the poorest peasants, to discharge in common brotherhood duties which have in view the glory of God, and the spiritual welfare of His people, it has a direct