

On a former occasion we had presented before us, in a concise and forcible manner, the numerous, powerful, and subtle enemies with which we had to contend, and the various difficulties we had to overcome, in the prosecution of the work in which we are engaged; and are we now prepared to say, (with the light of Scripture and experience shining upon us,)—"None of these things move us?"

In farther dwelling upon this subject, we shall endeavour, in the first place, to illustrate it by reference to characters who possessed these qualities of mind in a remarkable degree, and were instrumental in the accomplishment of great and glorious things.

In the second place, point out what is requisite in order to possess fixedness of principle and decision of character. And, in the third place, show the importance of possessing these traits of character.

We shall illustrate our subject by referring to those characters who have displayed these qualities of mind in a remarkable degree, and who have been instrumental in the accomplishment of great and glorious things.

Probably there have been none since the times of the apostles who have displayed in a more extraordinary manner unshaken Christian principle, with firm determination of purpose, than those who stood at the head of the reformation. Truth bursting upon them in all its effulgence, illuminated their minds, presenting before them the difference between truth and falsehood. In calm contemplation they viewed the scene that was suddenly been presented to their astonished vision, and having embraced the truth with all the affection of the heart, they made the firm resolve to oppose the flood of error and iniquity which had been rolling over the world for centuries, whatever might be the consequences. Having formed their purpose, and taken their observation, they were as unshaken as the everlasting hills. It might rise in all her fury, and thunder forth her charges, but they were indignantly repelled, even as the charges of the main are thrown back and churned to foam on the ramparts of an iron-bound coast. They leaned themselves upon the bulwarks of eternal truth, and opened upon the strongholds of error the artillery of truth, which caused the kingdom of darkness to shake its centre, demolishing in the dust the fortifications of falsehood and superstition. With undaunted courage