

Nelson, the devout Fletcher, should have still blessedly proved how truly these our "last days" are the glorious dispensation of Christ and the Holy Spirit!

Brethren, that we have as a people swerved from these habits of constant devotion, I mourn to think is, but too evident to you all.

2. But that we are also fallen from primitive care of our suffering brethren is, alas! equally clear. In the Divine record before quoted, I find it again thus written, "Neither was there any amongst them that lacked, for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the Apostles' feet; and distribution was made to every man according as he had need." And these times of brotherly love and kindness, mark you, were the days when the promises pertaining to this our dispensation were gloriously fulfilled; for Christians were then "full of the Holy Ghost and of faith;" their "souls prospered" like that of Gaius, their "hearts, like Lydia's, were opened to the Lord," and while willing to stay in order to serve the Church, their bounding hearts yet "longed to depart and be with Christ, which is far better." Because they loved their brother, Christ loved them and gave them largely of His Spirit.

Mark also in later times the single Church of Antioch supporting its thousands of Christian widows, orphans, and poor. Yea, coming nearer still to these degenerate days. Go and count the alms-houses, the charity-schools for holy secular education, and the other monuments of the brotherly love of your own ancestors in our father-land; and then say whether our religion, judged not only by New Testament times, but by Catholic Christianity wherever it has been in earnest, be worthy of the "latter days" of the dispensation of Christ and the Spirit? Where is our self-denying care of the poor? our efforts to treat them as brethren in Christ? Where are our alms-houses, hospitals, houses of refuge for repentant sinners? Or, our Christian Schools for the *daily* instruction of our Children in their never-to-be-divided duties to God and man? Who now gives largely to these things? Where are the individuals who dedicate whole fortunes to them, as in the earlier days of our present dispensation? Need we be surprised that men are looking for another and a higher dispensation; that Irvingites, Mormons, Spirit-Rappers, Families