

love that esteems others better than ourselves. And less of that self-love that has so often characterized us, in publishing the weakness of our brethren, the length and breadth of the land, in the ungodly newspapers of the day, to justify ourselves and show that we are righteous. This Korah, Dathan and Abiramism, if not subdued, will make us tremble yet.

But I pass to a fifth evil that endangers our happiness, and the prosperity of the cause we plead. Because of its selfishness, I shall call it *Absolenism*. It is that aspiring spirit that seeks to be the greatest in the kingdom, and cannot bear the idea of a superior. Ourself, our church, our city, our section of country, is all that can be seen by it that is of any value. This spirit is venerable for its age, and found a lodging place in the hearts of the Holy Twelve, and when cast out, was as restless as that unclean spirit, that wandered through dry places seeking rest, and found none until it returned to the place whence it came, and then, fearing a second expulsion, took seven other spirits worse than itself, to assist in carrying out its object.

I would that I could here add, that our preachers and editors have never fostered its soul-damning influence. But alas, it must be confessed that we have had our full share of this class. But we hope, under God, that the evil is passing away. But we need to take heed to ourselves and watch as well as pray, for it is evident that this demon is among us yet.

But I must not dwell upon this evil too long, but pass to a sixth evil, the legitimate offspring of the preceding evils. *It is a distaste for all religious reading*, unless it partakes of the same exciting and novel character of these spirits by which they are actuated. It will account for the few that take a religious paper. Magazines of literature and trash are often seen upon our centre tables. Agricultural and political news may be seen hanging upon the farmer's line, but not anything touching the spiritual interests of man. Parents may often present their children with richly bound books, but they are not of the character of "Harvey's Meditations among the Tombs." No. Under the influence of these spirits there is little love for quiet solitude, to meditate upon the wonders of Divine Grace, or to converse with those who love to talk of Jesus only.

I will now consider the seventh and last evil to be discussed at present, which is not general, but deserves a notice here. I confess, how-