

of this grace—the grace of Christian Meekness.

And 1st. Remember that before you can exercise Christian meekness, you must be converted—you must be born again—you must have the spirit of Christ abiding in you.

Then see that your meekness is habitual; see that you are adorned with a meek and quiet spirit, shewing your works with meekness of wisdom. The spirit of meekness may indeed expose you to the contempt of the world, but what overweighs the world's opinion is, it is with God of great price. What though this dress be not the fashion of the many, it is the fashion at Court—it is the King's own fashion. "Learn of me," says He, "for I am meek and lowly in heart." And when He girds on His sword and rides forth prosperously, it is for meekness and truth and righteousness.

There are certain occasions on which your meekness is to be more particularly displayed. Let me direct your attention to these:

1st. You must make your meekness appear in withstanding opposition. Lay your account with opposition. All who will live godly in Christ Jesus must suffer persecution. But be it your care to shew a meek and quiet spirit, heaping coals of fire on the heads of your adversaries to melt and soften them down.

2ndly. You must make your meekness appear in restoring the offender—in restoring an offending brother. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such an one." But how? In a cross, unkind, and severe manner—in an angry and wrathful temper? No; "In a spirit of meekness." Treat him not with harsh rebukes—with indignant reproaches—with a haughty and insulting carriage. But treat him with all meekness—with all the meekness and gentleness of Christ, in temper and in manner. See that every feeling, every look, every tone of anger, be suppressed. Win him with the meekness of wisdom, and the gentle persuasion of love,—making your approach to him with a calm, composed spirit. To seek to gain an offending brother by vehement declamation—with great heat and passion, is to seek for the Lord in the wind and in the earthquake, rather than in the still small voice. Speak to the offender, not in the spirit of those who would call down fire from heaven, but in the spirit of meekness,—that the still small voice of God may be heard, and the offender convinced and restored.

Lastly. You must make your meekness appear in defending the truth. In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves. When sincere inquiries are made respecting your principles and experience, be courteous, and reply with civility. Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear. State and defend the truth in its own spirit,—the spirit not only

of power, but of love,—not only of a sound mind, but of a tender heart. You must not strive; but, in meekness, instruct. You must not fly out into invective because you address unreasonable men. You must not storm, and use rough speech, because you plead for the truth. The truth needs not the service of passion. Truth is served best by meekness, and a dove-like spirit. Your voice may falter with emotion, but it must not be the emotion of anger. It must be the emotion of earnest concern and love.

Ye meek! ye are blessed. You inherit the earth. You feel an interest in all the world. You look on all your fellow-men with the heart of a brother. You have all that the earth itself can supply,—who have food and raiment, and things suited to your station. You delight yourselves in the abundance of peace, for your little, however small the measure, is better than the riches of many wicked.

"Now are ye the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what you shall be, but you know that when He shall appear you shall be like Him, for you shall see Him as He is." At the last day He will say unto you: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." In the better land—the new earth—the heavenly Canaan—the promised rest, you shall dwell, in everlasting felicity and joy.

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## Sketches from Church History.

SCOTLAND.

### The Reformation.

It is impossible to assign a definite and distinct date to the Scottish Reformation. We stand on some lofty eminence watching for the dawn ready to break o'er the eastern sky, yet we cannot note the exact period when the night dies and the day is born. First come faint glimmerings of light shooting upwards from below the horizon—then the glow gradually deepens, and the ruddy flush grows warmer until the sun mounts up and it is day. So was it with the light of Divine Truth, rising gradually and grandly over the rough mountains and deep glens of Scotland to dispel the moral and spiritual gloom, and usher in what has been justly styled "the glorious Reformation."

The Reformation, like every grand and solid structure, was one of gradual progression. The death of John Resby—the martyrdom of Patrick Hamilton—the preaching of John Knox and the final liberty of the Kirk, succeeded each other in the order of nature as well as in the order of time. The struggle between light and darkness—truth and error, was somewhat protracted as well as intensely earnest. Scotland, in common with Germany and France, had her Reform-