

fails, contenting himself with an examination of those which belong to his neighbour? The prudent merchant makes himself acquainted with every error, which he may have committed in his mercantile transactions and connexions. Were it not so, he could not act with that precaution which his success requires; and his ruin would be inevitable. Is a man's knowledge of his spiritual condition less necessary for enabling him to rectify his past errors, and to conduct himself with increasing wisdom and propriety? why are the precepts and promises of the bible so little regarded, and the institutions of religion so useless to many, who have been baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity? It is because they know not themselves, and the state of their affairs. Why do censors of a neighbour's faults, dwell upon these faults with malignant pleasure, magnifying them perhaps beyond all natural proportion, and yet passing over as great evils in their own hearts and lives? The same answer returns, because they know not themselves, being always abroad and never at home. Such persons, whatever may be their profession of religion and morality, are in great danger of finishing their course, without one valuable attainment. *If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them who are lost, in whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them, who believe not; lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine into them.*