

deficiencies with those of others, but rather to inquire, What do we more than others?

Let us, then, admit a fact vouched for by so many intelligent and thoughtful brethren. Let us take it for granted that there is somewhere a defect or obstacle which seems to debar progress in the right direction, and let us endeavor to discover where the hindrance is, and what are the appropriate means for its removal. Let us do this in faithful sincerity and candor; but with Christian affection, and let no one wince when we probe a wound which we desire to heal. I, too, have a cause to assign for the evils complained of, and I conceive that it lies much more deeply than is commonly supposed. I, too, have a remedy to propose which will be suggested at the proper time, and it is one upon which I have the utmost reliance.

There is, then, no need of discouragement. As to the great principles on which the Reformation is based, there is, as I firmly believe, no deficiency or failure whatever. If errors have been committed in applying these principles to practice, or, if extraneous matters have inadvertently been blended with them, these are matters to be corrected. Truth purifies itself from error, as the waters deposit the sediment which for a time may have rendered them turbid and unpalatable; and that Divine manifestation of infinite love, which is emphatically the truth and the power of God for salvation to him that believes, cannot long be perverted or encumbered by admixture.

That the precious truth of primitive Christianity which has been restored to the world by the present reformatory movement will free itself from any errors which may have been superadded to it, and that the great end will be fully accomplished in the complete recovery of the Christian institution in all its original power, I have no reason to doubt. This is not a matter, however, which can be accomplished at once, and it is to judge this effort most unfairly to assume that it has already completed its work. It is to be feared that many have supposed everything completed when the first principles of the gospel were again presented to the world as they were delivered by the apostles. Devoted to its interests as I have been from my youth, and thoroughly acquainted, as I am, with its real principles and purposes, I cannot silently see it thus misrepresented, and its interests thus endangered. I have been free to admit, that in a certain aspect, it has been seriously obstructed, and rendered apparently stationary for a time. Not, indeed, in proselyting power, or in the rapid diffusion of the pure *principles* of primitive