

the very churches of their own planting. They have continued ever since, varying continually as to the subjects and modes of difference, yet always differences. Never for a moment have Christians agreed as to what are the true and only speculative doctrines of their religion. Every method that has ever been projected of reconciling such differences, has long ago proved itself chimerical, absurd and impracticable. Every experiment, that has ever been made to produce uniformity, has aggravated the supposed evil, warred against human nature and human liberty, done great mischief, and turned out a miserable failure.

The attempt to produce uniformity of belief has been made in every age, in every form, and by every imaginable means, and all have failed. The church of Rome tried it. They set up a standard of belief; the scholars of Christendom maintained it, the collective wisdom and imposing authority of famous Councils sanctioned it, the successors of St. Peter were set for its defence, the arm of physical power was stretched out in its behalf, and the terrors of earthly and eternal torment were made to beset every by-path of heresy and schism; but it was a failure. The early Protestants tried it. Scarcely had they broken out of the fold of Rome, when they began their measures for uniformity. Synods were convened, and decrees and confessions were published from various quarters, with revilings and persecutions more abundant; but it was a failure. Luther and his coadjutors tried it, and failed. Calvin and his disciples tried it, and failed. The Church of England tried it, and failed. Every act of intolerance seemed to give birth to new heresies, and every blow that was struck for uniformity opened new