

nevertheless vaunts herself in the midst of her ruin, and is ready to say with the apostate whore, "I sit a Queen, and am no Widow." Awful picture! Then consider the state of individual souls. How few of those quickened by divine grace have settled peace with God! How few are personally in the enjoyment of the liberty wherewith Christ makes free! How many doubts and fears are entertained by God's people to their own loss and His dishonour! Dear brother, can we cease to pray? And are there not other things before our eyes at this time that surely might bring us to our knees in an agony of desire? Look at the twos and threes who have been gathered by the Holy Spirit in these last days to the confession of Christ's name out of the ruin of Christendom. *Is not that blessed hope, which came home to souls fifty years ago with such separating and purifying power, losing its hold upon us?* Are not the earthly-mindedness and the worldliness that so often and in so many ways are manifested, the "settling down" on the part of many, and the turning aside of many more to thing which "minister questions rather than godly edifying," are not these things the sad and solemn proof that the doctrine and the hope have been dis-severed, so that many are to be found boasting of the doctrine, whose lives are the standing witness that they are strangers to the HOPE, for wherever this exists it does and must necessarily produce its proper effects. 1 John iii. 3.

Lastly, remember that God is gathering out His