

23. Do not allow yourself to talk much about the opposition you meet with from ministers and Christians. Do not pray for yourself or others as if you or they are persecuted. Especially, do not this in public. Do not suffer your mind to dwell upon the opposition you meet with, lest you should be "overcome of evil." "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

24. Avoid a censorious, fault-finding spirit. This will sour and ruin your soul. You may grieve, but never fret. You may sorrow over the condition of things, but do not scold. While you must be plain, truthful, and searching, yet be patient, kind, and forbearing. "Warn them that are unruly; comfort the feeble-minded; support the weak; be patient toward all men."

25. Be careful to treat with the utmost kindness those who have not reached this exalted state. Do not fall out with them on account of their dullness to learn or their slowness to believe and seek for holiness. Avoid all tartness of expression and all undue severity, even though they should contradict and cavil. Have patience, and be not discouraged. "We, then, that are strong, ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves."

26. Learn to account in the most charitable manner for the opposition you meet with. Consider how long you were in bondage to sin and a slave of prejudice. Remember, the opposition you suffer may originate in mistake or misapprehension on the part of your opposers. Put the best and most charitable construction upon everything. "Charity suffereth long, and is kind . . . seeketh not her own . . . thinketh no evil . . . beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

27. Never withdraw from the church to which you belong because of any opposition you may meet with in it. In the church is the very place for you to let your light shine and work for God. Do not separate yourself from those who are in the dark in respect to this glorious doctrine. It is true, if you "stand up for Jesus" and profess holiness in some of our popular, proud, formal churches, you will find but little sympathy, and may have to stand alone. According to your day so shall your strength be. Remember, all heaven is in sympathy with holiness. Live in the church, do your whole duty in the right spirit and at a proper time, and if you are excommunicated, as some have been, let the responsibility be with others, and not with you. "And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake; but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."

28. Avoid controversy. Few persons can engage in it without sooner or later getting into a bad spirit. Avoid becoming excited, and getting into a scolding and vociferous manner of speaking. Avoid all sweeping condemnations in speaking of the Church. "The servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves, if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth."—*The King's Highway.*

---

THE GREAT MAN.—The great man is he who chooses the right with invincible resolution; who resists the sorest temptations from within and without; who bears the heaviest burdens cheerfully; who is calmest in storms, and most fearless under menace and frowns; and whose reliance on truth, on virtue, and on God, is most unfaltering.—*Channing.*