

In directing your attention to these words, let us consider:—

I. THE FAITH FOR WHICH WE OUGHT TO CONTEND; and,

II. SOME SPECIAL REASONS WHY WE SHOULD CONTEND FOR THE FAITH. May the spirit of all grace guide us in our illustrations and bring home the truths spoken, with conviction to the conscience!

I. LET US CONSIDER THE FAITH FOR WHICH WE OUGHT TO CONTEND. By the "Faith" referred to in the text we are to understand the common evangelical system of christianity, or the doctrines of the gospel as revealed in the scriptures.

We remark then, we should contend,

1. *For a Scriptural Faith*, in opposition to infidelity. Who is the infidel?—It is he who rejects all revelation and pronounces it impossible. It is he who denies inspiration, accepts not Christ as a divine Saviour, and questions a future state.—It is he who makes the light of nature or reason and reason alone, the platform of his theology, and his only instructor for time and eternity.

In what manner are we to contend with the infidel? What means are we to employ to endeavour to bring him over to the faith? A favorite theory of the present day is:—We must meet the Infidel on his own ground, and fight him with his own weapons. If he resort to logic, we must meet him with logic; if to metaphysics with metaphysics; if to science, with science; if to philosophy with philosophy; if to theology, with theology. Whatever weapon he selects, we must select the same. To a certain extent, there is truth in this theory. At all points we must be prepared to defend the gospel as well as propagate it. Still this does not appear to us the most effectual mode of meeting and conquering infidelity. Science and metaphysics and philosophy may protect the citadel and them *within*; but they will fall like water on the countless masses *without*. The grand weapon of our warfare is the word of God. It is the Bible—Bible training, Bible truth, Bible doctrine, Bible facts, Bible illustrations, Bible warnings, Bible invitations and Bible threatenings. From house to house, from street to street, and from village to village we must go and carry our Bible with us. We must read it, and expound it, and preach it, and pray it. We must indoctrinate with its principles and especially with its spirit, our children, our servants, our workmen, our mechanics and our foremen and master operatives, as well as the rich and noble and learned.—Nor must we cease to do so till the whole of society—every rank and every class—from the lowest to the highest, be leavened, impregnated, saturated with it. It is this

will crush the head of the hydra, and make his fang innocuous. It has done it already, and we have God's authority for it, it will do it again.

It has been said by way of objection to this, that the Bible has been long long tried, but it has turned out a complete failure. Year after year, and generation after generation, it has been preached from our pulpits, taught in our Sabbath schools, and read in our families, but what has the result been—what the effect produced? The number of infidels is greater *now* than ever it was;—greater than at the revolution of America, or the greater revolution of France;—when infidel principles and infidel publications permeated every rank of society,—when the very foundations, not only of religion, but of social order and government, seemed about to be upheaved,—when "all faces were turned pale," and every one was heard exclaiming, "alas! for that day is great so that none is like it."—Is not this a palpable proof of the failure, the inefficacy of Bible preaching, and Bible training?

But worse still. Low as the stratum of Infidelity is in society, there is yet a lower. There is a class, a multitudinous class, wrapt up in ignorance and immorality, steeped in the deepest depravity, and noted for nothing but the gratification of the lowest animal appetites. For want of a better appellation, they are commonly known by the name of "the masses." There are thousands and thousands of such. They are to be found principally in the lanes and alleys and back streets of our cities and large towns. Yet all these ungodly, immoral, festering masses have gradually accumulated under Bible preaching and Bible training. Are not those the strongest evidences that can be adduced that such preaching and training are useless, and that christianity as a system of conservation or reformation, has become perfectly obsolete?

But besides this, there are other ways of accounting for the accumulation of these masses. Some, indeed, trace up all this accumulation just to the very want of this Bible training. They reason in some manner like this. For 60 or 70 years of the last century, and for 15 or 20 of the present, high churchism was rampant in England; moderatism, with an iron rod, tyrannised over Scotland; arianism was beginning to effloresce and show its fruits in Ireland; and unitarianism in America. Men, who bore the name of ministers of Christ,—occupied the pulpit, looked after the fleece, but cared not for the flock. If the people came to worship in the sanctuary on Sabbath, all was well and good; but if not, no one went after them, no one visited them, no one warned or exhort-