

their stiff-neckedness, they have "not only wearied men, but wearied my God also;" who has at length said, "let him alone," "my spirit shall not always strive with man!"

I have been alarmed at seeing some of our friends so incautious in believing every internal suggestion, and some again, of whom I had hoped better things, denying the Holy Ghost in one very important branch of his work in man, and "limiting the Holy One of Israel," as he has not limited himself, and this in direct contradiction to the express and solemn testimony of some of the Lord's faithful witnesses. Is there any thing in scripture, either positive or inferential against the important doctrine that the Holy Ghost may now say to any one, as he did to Philip, "go" to this or that place? And as there is not, but, on the contrary, as we are told that "the children of God are led by the spirit of God;" and many of his servants have declared, that by an impulse which they are assured was divine, they have been thus guided in a matter, the issue whereof has also been unquestionably good and highly beneficial; ought we not to cultivate this kind of spirituality and docility of mind, and carefully guard against that "leaning to our own understanding," against the movements of God's spirit, which must issue in darkness and coldness of heart and soul in the things of God. "Trust to the Lord with all thine heart and lean not to thy own understanding." You will, dear friends, excuse my dwelling more on this subject than the particular object of this address might seem to call for; but as it is a subject on which it has pleased the wisdom of God to exercise my mind particularly, I am satisfied to embrace every fair opportunity of bearing my testimony to what I believe *important truth* on this subject.

And now, as to the practical bearing and tendencies of this church; I have said that by their teachings they appear to me to lay the axe to the root of the fair tree of *christian morals*, and "by their fruits ye shall know them." I don't know that they make use of the words, "*passive obedience*," that badge of the dark ages, both of civil and ecclesiastical despotism! that daring contradiction of the word of God as well as of all natural religion, feeling, common sense, and intellectual light and liberty! "Call no man master upon earth," says Christ, nor "father." O no! for if master, or father, or husband require an act contrary to "the mind and will of Christ," there is but one answer for them: "whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you *more* than unto God—judge ye." But I will submit to those who have heard them, whether they do not teach it in the most palpable and