

not an enemy that reproached me, then I could have borne it, neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him. But it was thou, a man, mine equal, my guide and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company."

The opposition then which the friends of truth have to encounter in the present day is peculiar, differing from that of previous ages, and requiring never-ceasing diligence, constant watchfulness, and all the resources which the Church can bring to bear against the great Adversary. He seems to know his time is short. His malignity and cunning, his Protean aspects, are adapted, if possible, to deceive the very elect; and were it not that God yet reigneth we might well cry, We are undone.

This brings us to consider in the third place the manner in which we are to contend for the faith. For to God's people it is given instrumentally to fight. It is very evident considering the legitimate effects of religion on the soul, the manner of the conflict on our part must be peculiar. We are to contend with other, for their own benefit, *to win the victory by winning the foe*, and while we defy him who is the instigator of the hostility, yet we are to save with compassion those who are his deluded servants. Having escaped ourselves from his snares we are called upon to open the blind eyes, to point out the wicked devices, and even in the very face of the great adversary, to obtain the victory rather by causing the hostility to cease, than by opposing it with bitterness.

It is very evident that the undying attachment, the uncompromising adherence to truth of which we have already spoken must be one of the first requisites. Mercenary soldiers may sometimes fight well, but the patriot who feels that his country is to be saved, the warrior who is battling in behalf of the home and the family whom he loves as his own soul, the man who is contending for some great principle of right dear to his heart, these are the ones whose spirit almost ensures the victory. These fight with all the heart. From these every blow must tell. Such men for the time seem to be inspired. They go to the conflict with that energy and determination, which is satisfied with nothing short of victory