

wise purposes (concerning which I will not now speculate) he permitted a thorough corruption of this pure, divine, and ever lovely religion. To suppose that we can bring order out of confusion, peace out of present rampant elements, and spirituality out of such masses of insinuating and wide-spread corruption as we have at this day, by the effort of a moment, is assuming what never has been, in any department, realized. Even under the eye of the apostles whose ministrations were extraordinary, the reformers—pupils of the apostles—needed reformation. And that they had such awful spirits to deal with, and convert, and reform, as we have in these years of grace, is not for one moment to be conceded. The dissolute inhabitants of Corinth, were, as far as I am acquainted with the laws of mentals and spirituals, far easier to be formed into the image of the Divine Master than the part-civilized, half-moralized, quarter-christianized and altogether sectarianized specimens of humanity that we have at this day.

Yet I would do violence to my knowledge and sense of justice were I to omit to bring prominently to notice the undeniable fact that by the disciples, the seeds of truth have been sown that must ultimately ripen to perfection.

That some in the reform ranks do not understand these principles, nor love them, nor are governed by them, nor care for them, I grant you; but, when candidly examined, there is nothing either discouraging or condemning in this truth thus honestly admitted. Go with me to the beginning of Moses' law—to the commencement of the Gospel—to the first labors of the great reformers in the sixteenth century; and you will find abundant proof that the reformers in the current century are not anomalous. What says the zealous and discriminating Paul to some of the primitive converts? "I am" says he to them "afraid of you" "I travail in pain till Christ be formed anew in you." Do I thus speak to ward off your admonitions from those who need them, or apologize for the delinquencies and failings of very many? You must see that my object is very different.

A word in respect to your own figure—soldiers of conquerors. Who was Alexander, generally called the Great? Please read his history anew. The greatest Captain of his age, and the most successful conqueror, he subdued countries that he required to conquer again, and was necessitated to retake posts that he had himself established.

What would you think of me, my friend, were I to pass one of your fields near Williamsville, where had been pine stumps by the hundred, and sunken rocks, and huge elders, and pieces of stone wall, and piles of decayed branches and roots,—all sizes, sorts, and shapes.