liable to feel the benumbing effects; and thus the entire church, by a preponderance of unholy example, although containing in its bosom many sincere followers of the Lamb, become almost, if not entirely, inefficient, as an instrument of good. Hence the importance of discipline to keep the spiritual house cleaned, lighted and well supplied with all the luxuries of a spiritual life, that weary, destitute travellers may be drawn towards it, and find, when they enter, a sympathizing family and a happy home.

The object of discipline, in the second place, has a reference to the disorderly brother whose case requires attention. Paul in writing to Timothy says of Hymenæus and Alexander, "Whom I have delivered unto Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme." It is very evident, from the epistles to the Corinthians, that discipline had a salutary effect upon the individual whose conduct had given the apostle so much anxiety and sorrow. In his first epistle Paul censures the man and the church for harboring him, and commands them in the name of the Lord Jesus "to deliver such an one unto Satan, for the destruction of the flesh, that the Spirit may be saved." In the second epistle he refers with melting tenderness to the same case, telling them that the punishment inflicted was sufficient, and that they ought now rather to forgive him and comfort him, lest the penitent brother should be "swallowed up with over-much sorrow." Similar results have frequently been noticed. Discipline judiciously administered has often been the instrument, in the hand of God, not only of bringing a wayward brother to repentance, as perhaps nothing else could, but also of leading a self-deceived professor to see himself as a lost sinner in the sight of God.

Discipline, then, may be regarded as a very important duty of every Christian church. When an occasion occurs it is doubtless a time for the sincerest and deepest sorrow—the most heart-searching humiliation, earnest and agonizing prayer; for while excluded members may draw a kind of unholy and, we