

goods, but that it was a voluntary act, induced by the necessities of the poor among them, and proceeding from the universal principle of loving their brethren even as they loved themselves. But while this particular exercise of Christian love may be considered as local, and peculiar to the time and circumstances, the spirit which actuated them is of universal application, and should be of universal influence. Among those, at least, who profess to be Christians not in name only, but in deed and in truth, such a spirit may be expected--nay, is demanded, as an evidence of sincerity. For what sense can he have of the love of God, in not even sparing His own Son for his sake, who esteems any thing he may have too dear to be surrendered for the Lord's glory--who presumes to spend upon himself, for the feeding of his own pride, indulging his own appetite, or gratifying his