

letter and spirit of christianity. And, as he goes on with his examination, he will be surprised in how many things he indulges contrary to the convictions of a conscience enlightened by the word of God. Before he leaves his closet he will begin to estimate the importance of a thorough reformation. If in his closet he has made a full confession, and has determined that God's will shall be done in and by him, like Moses, his face will shine, and others will feel his influence.

But he will not pause here. If he has neglected the proper training of his family: if the voice of prayer has not been there heard, he will confess to his family his neglect of duty and will teach them the right way, and pray with and for them. He will then confess to the congregation of the Lord, if he has sinned against them by neglecting his duties, or by doing any thing which has been a reproach to the cause. To the world, against whom he has sinned by his unchristian walk, he will confess, and endeavour to walk in wisdom toward them that are without. In all this he will be zealous and sincere. He will be so ingenuous that no one will doubt his sincerity: wherever he has wronged any one in reputation or property, he will make the most ample satisfaction: he will not gauge his honesty by the laws of the land, but by the Saviour's rule—"As ye would that others should do to you, do you even so to them." In a word, he will dispose of every thing connected with himself as a religious being, just as though he expected to stand before the Judge the next hour. Nothing short of this will do! Who now loves the cause of God? Who will be honest to God, themselves, and the world! This is the remedy which we would propose. No one can make such a confession as this without creating within himself deep feeling. No one need fear fanaticism, because confession of our sins and forsaking them is most reasonable. Will the brotherhood individually take these desultory thoughts into serious consideration? So confident are we of the power of truth, that we have not the most remote doubt that if this course were pursued by the faithful, that all those whose hearts have ever been touched with the love of God would soon rally to the standard; and hypocrites, and those unworthy of a place in the Congregation of the Saints, would either be converted or driven to their own place.

Brethren, reflect seriously on these suggestions: not because your humble servant has submitted them, but because the world demands it, your spiritual interests demand it—all in heaven and earth who love God demand it; and God says "if you cover your sins you shall not prosper"—if you refuse to confess them, "Be sure your sins will find you out."

W. W. E.

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## STUDY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

No. 5.

### EPISTOLARY WRITINGS.

BY A. CAMPEELL.

In a preface to one of the Epistles we can illustrate and apply the principles referred to in a previous number to much better advantage than in such general remarks; and for this purpose we shall present the