

"but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will." When the Apostle gave the widow this liberty, he knew that she was married "only in the Lord;" and he adds "but she is happier if she so abide after my judgment." Now here is the question: What was the widow to abide in which would make her happier according to the apostle's judgment? The legitimate answer is, married "only in the Lord." To prove that this is the answer, read the eighth verse of this chapter. "I say therefore to the unmarried and to widows, it is good for them to abide even as I am." Here the same question comes up, What did Paul abide in? We understand from the scripture that Paul abode married only in the Lord, (that is, he never entered into temporal marriage) That this is the idea the apostle conveys in the first question, is further confirmed by the 34th verse of this chapter.

"I pass to his third and last witness." Yes, at the gallop—condemning everything at a single glance; but I cannot think that this is the best way to find out what the mind of the Lord is concerning anything about which there is any dispute. There are more ways than one of examining a witness. Dut. vii, 3. The enacting of this law presupposes that inter-marriages were general or customary amongst the nations; but the whole of the twelve tribes had the privilege of marrying those they thought best. There was also a law given by Moses, that the property of the tribes should not pass from one to the other, and when the case of the daughters of Zelophead was referred to the Lord, the oracle was, "Let them marry to whom they think best." So far the oracle is in accordance with the general law; but as the previous law concerning property could not be broken, there was an exception added, that heiresses should marry only in the tribe of their fathers. Let it be remembered that to constitute an heiress, she must inherit through her father a part of that property, that God allotted to the tribe of her father, no matter how small it was; whereas a Jewess might through her father, inherit a million of pounds of money, but that would not constitute her an heiress in the scriptural sense of the word. And from the time that God dispersed the Jews amongst the nations, there has not been an heiress in Israel, so that the exception upon which you build so much, is a nullity, and will continue to be so, until it please God again to establish the Jews in Canaan upon the same footing as when he first brought them across the Jordan.

"I am tired of the pertness and confidence, with which some in this style speak." Brother, I am afraid that I might misunderstand you here, so I will let you explain yourself at your convenience; but as we are both old men, and if I do not mistake I am the oldest of the two, I would offer a few words of advice. They are of general application, and I have as much need to be admonished as any—Never lose your temper in argument, to attempt to frown an opponent down, for it is always considered a weak argument.

As to your excellent advice to unmarried members, I most heartily agree with it all, as it is in accordance with my article in the May number of the *Christian Banner*.