A Forty Years' Survey

A man has made great progress when he has learned to co-operate heartily with his brethren, with the full approbation of his whole nature. It requires a many sided and self-forgetting person, to see that it is rarely of much importance how a thing is done, so that it really is well done; and that in all organizations it is generally better to co-operate with our brethren in a less perfect scheme, than to stand alone admiring the most perfect. Opinions regulate the ways and modes of doing things, principles rarely do. Such people as I have in my mind, have a very imperfect idea of the true design of the gospel. That is chiefly remedial, and its loving spirit should be wrapped around all we touch and do. A few such members as I have sketched would soon influence a church, and without intending it, make her feel that work for God and for perishing men is not the greatest thing, that building up is not the main idea, but building up in their way. Such principles introduced among the members of any organization infallibly lead to disintegration. I believe no denomination in this country is yet wholly free from spiritual stones so peculiarly cut, that no other stone can be laid beside them. The state of things was much harder to manage twenty-five years ago. When a Church becomes large and strong, a few such stones do no great harm; they can be laid upon the top of the wall to keep over-forward folks from climbing over.

This Church has been retarded in her progress also, by some who suddenly became too pious any longer to

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