

SINCERITY SEEKING THE WAY TO HEAVEN.

CHAPTER VI.

Our young friend *Sincerity*, shortly after his late conversation with Mr. H., was at a funeral, and, being detained by the failure of the undertaker to arrive in time, his attention was attracted by the conversation of a very grave, dignified, and thoughtful lady, in appearance, who sat near him, and directed her discourse to some ladies at her side. He soon found that her remarks were of a religious character, and of course was deeply interested in them. But he could not discover what religious party this venerable lady was of; yet he was struck with the sense and propriety of what she said. For the present, we shall call this distinguished and interesting lady *Priscilla*. When the conversation had terminated between her and those to whom she directed her remarks, our young friend approached her as follows:

Sincerity. May I ask you, madam, to what denomination you belong?

Priscilla. The Church of Christ, sir.

S. I supposed you belonged to the Church of Christ; but what branch?

P. I do not belong to a *branch*, my good sir, but am a branch myself. The Saviour said to his disciples, "I am the vine, ye are the branches." I trust, sir, that I am one of these branches, or a member of Christ's body—the church.

S. Well, but what do you and your brethren call yourselves?

P. Christians, sir; Disciples of Christ.

S. Nothing else?

P. Sometimes we call the members of the church "brethren," "friends," "children of God," "saints," etc., as they did in ancient times. We apply to ourselves none but Scripture designations.

S. Why, I am astonished! How do you distinguish yourselves from others?

P. We do not wish to distinguish ourselves from others who are satisfied with the simple designations by which the people of God are called in the Scriptures. But those who are not satisfied with Scripture designations for the children of God, by calling themselves by other names, *distinguish themselves from us*. There is, therefore, a distinction kept up where there is a difference, and that is as far as there should be any distinction.