

divisions—to harmonize the jarring passions of men—to bring all denominations of Christians to love one another, to live as brethren, to be at peace: and although I am not a member of your order, or joined to you by outward forms; yet I can say I am joined to you in this spirit, and that my heart is in unison with yours. And here let me remark, that there never was a time that required your exertions more than the present; for never were divisions in the Christian world more numerous—never did the religion of Jesus shew less of His spirit—never was the Trowel of Reconciliation, (to use one of your own metaphors,) more wanted, to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection through the world; for never were men more “lovers of their own selves.” The hand of every man seems raised against his brother, and every advantage taken of his ignorance, weakness and necessity. But religious differences are not the only source of unfriendly feelings—political divisions are equally productive of hatred; so that it has literally come to pass, as our Lord foretells in the two verses following the text—that there “should be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three; the father divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”

These divisions, however, were the *effect* of Christ's coming, but not the *end* for which he came. He came to bring peace and good will; and whatever tends to promote these objects, must be accordant with the Christian religion, and well pleasing to the Author and