

mother ;" but "*striving together*," with united energies, against your common adversary—"striving together for the faith of the Gospel."

The text which I have chosen as the basis of my final exhortation, is not one of those desultory and random discussions which distract the mind, and leave us at a loss what we are to think and what we are to do; every one may understand, and every one may practise it. Receive it, then, as the memorial of one who loves your souls—of one who, though he be absent in person, will be ever with you in heart.

Touching, therefore, as I feel to be the prospect of our parting, there is yet to come an event of infinitely higher interest and importance,—that of our re-union : that august scene, when the pastor and the flock shall appear together at the call of the Great Shepherd. And oh, brethren ! what a fearful reckoning will there then be made, if, at that awful day, it shall be found that all which we have done has been done in vain ; that though these sanctuary doors have constantly been opened to admit the associated worshippers of a holy and heart-searching God ; though the people have assembled and responded, and united in the serious proceedings ; yet that, after all, a mere mechanical Christianity is the only thing produced ; that the *instruments* of religion have been confounded with the *end* ; that a desire to be *pleased* has occupied the place of a desire to be *profited* ; that though the judgment may have been convinced, and the feelings interested, yet not one step of that repentance—which, if we have it not, we perish—has been taken,—no faith