

The first effort which the genius of the New Institution enjoins with respect to offending brothers, in similar to that notable regulation concerning private trespasses, which, all who have read it remember, aims at gaining the supposed aggressor or delinquent. Hence the characteristic feature in all congregational proceedings in reference to those who sin, not so much against Christ, is that condescending tenderness which aims at the conversion of the delinquent or transgressor. The dernier resort, when all means fail, is separation. This tender solicitude and earnestness to gain a brother who has fallen, is, in some cases, where the nature of the case does not forbid, extended even beyond exclusion. So that although public good, as well as that of the subject of censure, does require his exclusion; yet even then he is not to be treated as an enemy, but admonished as a brother. The lesson of all others the most difficult, and the most important to be learned on the subject of this essay, is that which the preceding considerations suggest, and that is briefly that every part of the proceedings in reference to an offending brother must be distinguished by every possible demonstration of sympathy and concern for his good standing and character in the sight of God and man: and that final seclusion from the congregation must not be attempted until admonition, reproof, and persuasion, have failed to effect a real change in his views and behaviour. Though I neither hold Lord Chesterfield nor his writings in much esteem, yet I cannot but admire his happy use of the "*suaviter in modo*" and the "*fortiter in re*," so much commended in his letters. If the sweetness or gracefulness in the manner of doing, could always accompany the firmness in the purpose, or in the thing to be done, it would be no less useful than ornamental even amongst christians in all their congregational proceedings relating to offenders.

REVIEW OF DR. SHEPARD.

[The following article was laid away with other unpublished documents; but the writer gives us proof that he is still convinced that our readers ought to have it. Being very liberal with communications, and those who send them, we now lay it before our readers.—D. O.]

For the Christian Banner.

I resume my pen again for the further consideration of Dr. Shepard's address published in the Christian Banner for December last. In a former article I endeavored to show some things the church had