

7

pardon, his mercy, kindness and compassion; his protection; direction and conduct; his favour, his power and sympathy; his light and glory, his crown and throne; his felicity and his eternity and life. Thus the soul lives in Christ, and he in the soul. Their life is divinely interwoven. You in me, and I in you. Hence, because he lives, they shall live also. Husband and wife must lose their relation by death; the branches may be cut off from the root, and the head, that sympathises with all, may lose some of its members; but he that is joined to the Lord, is one spirit, and a spirit can never be divided. This mysterious union is bliss begun on earth, and heavenly felicity tasted below, and shall be the eternal admiration of angels, the envy of devils and damned spirits and the wonder of the higher house. AMEN.

Secondly—Imperfect Attainments.—How pitiful are our highest attainments in this imperfect state. But, Oh! how beautiful it is for the child of grace, to grow daily in grace, and in the knowledge of God, to rise step by step, till at length complete in him who is the pattern of perfection. Let it be my continual struggle, then, that my grace, like the shining light, may shine more and more until the perfect day of glory. I can never get so near to God, but there still remains, and through eternity will remain, a distance to be destroyed by approaching yet more near. Mine attainments can never be so high, but there remains something attainable, which I have not yet attained. Not as though I had already attained either, were already perfect, but I follow after, if I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. If this was the confession of the great Apostle, what must I say, who am but just setting my head through the shadows of the night and peeping into the dawning of divine things? Hence let me press vigorously towards perfection, and not be contented with one beam of his glory, seeing he is willing to reveal it all. Let me daily be drawing more near to him, till Enoch-like, I walk with God, and have my conversation in heaven. Let me daily sit at wisdom's door, and stand at the gate of Paradise, that since as yet I cannot enter in, I may send in my faith to view the fields, the land