

maintained among them as ought to be expected in this imperfect state. It will be obvious to every one, that certain evils are attendant upon the independent and popular mode of discipline, upon which the most scriptural churches are founded, which are not incident to those where the clergy have an absolute control. In summing up a comparison of evils, however, we have no doubt on which side the balance lies, but as in every other practicable case, we must here refer to the word and to the testimony, and if any thing can be derived from that word by way of precept or pattern, which in all essential points instructs us as to the formation of a visible church, we contend that we have no further licence to deliberate or choose what mode of church government we shall adopt. Our own, we humbly believe to be built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone, and we also believe that such being the case, when a church is formed of such materials as the Gospel directs, of lively stones built up a spiritual building, however the sins and errors of this state of mortality may shake and try it, yet that it contains in its structure the seeds of self purification, and the sure promises of God will all be made good in supporting and blessing it. The same disadvantages and difficulties that are at this day urged by some as inherent in the congregational form of discipline, and therefore loudly condemned, are as plainly discernible in the churches planted by the Apostles, and we are entirely willing to follow them as our guides, and submit to like unavoidable evils. Under this view it should be a consolation to those who have the oversight of the flocks of Christ, that however dark and afflictive may be the clouds which at times overhang them, when divisions occur, and the enemy is permitted to try them, yet the great shepherd has promised not to leave nor forsake them, and such trials are only allowed for the perfecting and sanctifying those who have been truly called. Wisdom, prudence and caution, should ever direct, and faith and holiness, ever be the great aim of Pastor and people. Mutual love and forbearance should ever dictate their actions towards each other; and above all other occasions should these graces abound when brethren are called on to make choice of a man of God to dispense the Gospel to the church, and administer its holy ordinances. Churches should also exercise the most prayerful deliberation as regards such of their members as they may hope to be called to the ministry: want of proper circumspection is in these cases fraught with mighty evil; for from the licentiates of the churches are to be supplied the future Pastors who are to guide the flock.

Since the last meeting of the churches in Association, one of their oldest and most revered ministers has been called from his earthly labours, we doubt not to receive a crown of joy that fadeth not away—to inherit that exaltation which is the lot of those who have turned many to righteousness. Our beloved brother Handley Chipman will long live in the affections of