

firmly to its own avowed principles ; but the spirit which breathes in all ought to be that of the Apostle in this beautiful aspiration : " Grace, mercy, and peace be on all them that love our Lord Jesus in sincerity. Amen."

The promise annexed to the text is couched in the language of absolute assurance—"The God of love and of peace shall be with you." A Church cannot prosper if the God of love and of peace shall desert her. Ichabod will in that case be inscribed on her ruined walls. She may introduce no changes in her professed creed or form of worship—she may retain her connexion with the civil government of the land—she may carry on her services of worship nearly as before ; she may embrace a large proportion of the learning of the age—and somewhat of the piety of her better days may be seen to linger with a flickering light here and there amid her portals. But if, as a society, she has dishonoured God, and if, in righteous recompense he has forsaken her, no trifling remnants of individual worth within her pale will form an effective redeeming trait. On the other hand, the presence of the "God of love and peace" in a Church will be the pledge and the prelude of great events. "The God of love" will smile propitious on her humblest efforts put forth for the honour of his name. He will bless her schools of theological literature, and cheer her "sons of the prophets" on their way. He will go forth with her Duffs, her MacKays, her MacDonalds, her Wilsons, on the broad field of Evangelistic and Missionary toil, and herald them onward to a glorious victory of faith. He will sharpen the arrows of her quiver and speed them on their path to the conscience and the heart. "The God of peace" will remove any causes of variance which may exist within her pale. He will sweeten the fellowship of her kindred spirits. He will shed the olive branch of peace around her dwellings. The hoarse sounds of war he will make to die away before the silver trumpet of evangelical love. "The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, but my kindness," saith God, "shall not depart from