

"My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her." "Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast doves' eyes within thy locks: thy hair is a flock of goats, that appear from mount Gilead." "Fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners."

A church holding in its fellowship members walking disorderly is certainly to the full extent of such disorder stripped of its beauty and shorn of its strength. Not the influence, not the members, not the wealth, but the holiness is the measure of the church's power. There is a kind of omnipotence in a godly life that makes even the ungodly quail. In the language of another: "Argument may be resisted, persuasion and entreaty be scorned; the thrilling appeals and monitions of the pulpit, set forth with all the rigour of logic and all the glow of eloquence, may be evaded or disregarded; but the exhibition of exalted piety has a might which nothing can withstand: it is truth embodied—it is the gospel burning in the hearts, beaming in the eyes, breathing from the lips, and preaching in the lives of its votaries."

An ungodly life in a church produces a double evil, the extent and result of which no human wisdom can calculate. There is the effect upon the world, leading the unregenerate to doubt the sincerity of all religious profession, and conducting thousands doubtless through the paths of neglect, stupid indifference, vice and infidelity, to the chambers of endless night. There is, secondly, the effect produced upon the church itself. "Can one take fire in his bosom and not be burned?" Is it not according to a constantly operating law of our nature that we catch the spirit and imbibe the sentiments of those with whom we associate? Will not carelessness, neglect of duty, indulged in upon the part of one member of a church, tend, unavoidably, to produce its like in the case of others? And as none are impervious to evil influences, not only the younger, the weaker, but the older, even the deacons and ministers, are