

his holiness and piety with pleasure; and it is a great thing to be able to appreciate moral excellence, and spiritual graces—but it is more to cultivate them. And the servants of the LORD should be patterns of every excellence—examples of piety and goodness—which all may admire and follow; they should *live* as well as preach the gospel. But it is more than can be expected that the Christian should gain the admiration of every heart and lip: for many, conscious of their own moral worthlessness, and anxious to excuse it, will hate and traduce the excellence which they do not possess. Still, eminent holiness—consistent, devout, and useful piety—will command the respect of men in general, and even of enemies. But, brethren, it is not sufficient that you rejoice in the light of CHRIST's faithful servants; you must cultivate the purity and devotion, the faith and zeal, which you admire. And hence the Apostle says—"Be ye followers of me, even as I am also of CHRIST."—1 Cor. 11, 1. And again it is said—"Remember them that have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of the LORD, whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation JESUS CHRIST, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever."—Heb. 13, 7, 8. And are CHRIST's ministers, whom you esteemed for their piety and faithfulness, gone to their rest and reward? Then "be ye followers of them who, through faith and patience, inherit the promises."—Heb. 6, 12.

The Jews admired the excellence of John—"for a season rejoiced in his light;"—but they did not imitate his graces.

*They also attended and loved his ministry.* As with bold and fervid zeal he commanded the people to