

relative perfection which is not only attainable by Christians, but which they are bound to seek after. Even this relative perfection indeed they never attain to on earth, for the Church below is the Church militant. And yet it is a perfection which they are to keep steadily in view, as the object of all their aims, and as essential to their complete felicity. They must seek to be *fully established* in the faith, and hope, and holiness, of the Gospel. They must not satisfy themselves with slender progress and puny attainments. They must avail themselves of all divinely-appointed means in order that they may grow in grace and in knowledge ; that they may live more near to the great source of all mercy and love ; that they may obtain, day after day, more deeply-affecting views of the glory of Christ ; that their impressions of the enormity of all transgression may be deepened ; that their sense of the utter worthlessness of the world, and the pleasures of it, may be rendered more acute ; and that the grand realities of eternity may be brought to bear upon them with a livelier and a holier influence. In connexion with this exercise of diligence in the use of means, there must be a growing earnestness in prayer for the gracious communications of the Holy Spirit, by which alone can believers be enlightened in their views of truth and invigorated in their graces of holiness. Moreover, there must be exercised a holy jealousy over themselves ; a habitual watchfulness against temptation ; a constant circumspection. With all this, there must be a growing fruitfulness in all good works ; "For herein," says Christ to his people, "is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit." This is Christian establishment—"And this also we pray, even your perfection."

But Paul addresses the Corinthian members as forming a Church, or collected society of harmonious worshippers. In this view, the duty here enjoined is that which is incumbent on every Church as a divinely-constituted body ; namely, to seek its complete organization and its matured growth. The Church of Corinth stood peculiarly in need of such an admonition as this—"Be perfect." Erroneous opinions