

## A SERMON,

PREACHED BEFORE THE CANADA BAPTIST UNION,  
AT PARIS, CANADA WEST, ON 24TH JUNE, 1846.  
BY REV. GEORGE SILVER, OF BEAMSVILLE.

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“ But none of these things move me.”—Acts xx. 24.  
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THAT fixedness of principle and purpose is essentially necessary to the success of any great moral enterprise will, I think, be readily admitted by all without a moment's reflection. Who can take a view of the great moral events which have transpired in our world, without at once perceiving that the principal elements combined, in the commencement, progress, and accomplishment, were firmness of principle, united with unshakeness of purpose? If we turn and take a view of the mighty revolutions which have shaken kingdoms to their centre, and levelled thrones in the dust, we shall see that they have been commenced and carried on only by those who, having determined upon the course they would pursue, have, with unshaken resolution of mind, and constancy of effort, carried out their plans to their full accomplishment. To such minds difficulty and danger present no discouragement: they are like the mighty river across whose course some obstruction has been thrown, which may recoil back for a moment, as if to summon all its strength, and then, coming on with tenfold force, sweeps away at once the barrier, and rolls on its peaceful way in all the majesty of unconquerable power. There is something like Omnipotence about the man who can resolve calmly and carry out his purposes with unshaken determination. On the other hand, fickleness of purpose is sufficient to paralyze every effort which might be made for the accomplishing of an object, however easy the task in itself, and however worthy the object to be attained. Instability of character can prevent an individual from accomplishing anything to purpose in any department of life. “ Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel,” is a truth that the experience of every one has corroborated: and it has been a thousand