

these differences prove nothing against the consistency or intelligibility of the Scripture testimony any more than the fact that two lawyers dispute the interpretation or application of a particular law proves that the statute has not been properly framed. The Christian church is not composed of angels, but of those who are being *prepared* for a perfect sphere. These differ much as to intelligence, knowledge, and devotion. God does not force divine light upon any ; but, in the words of another, "the fulness of God waits upon an empty vessel." He dispenses divine light and grace to those who seek the same, and in proportion as they seek them. "If thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding : if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as hid treasures ; *then* shall thou understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God." Let it be borne in mind how repugnant divine truth is to the natural heart, and it will not appear wonderful that those who profess to follow it, or even those who truly receive it, should not give it an equally cordial reception. In the case of Christ's disciples, after they had grasped the fundamental fact that Jesus was the Son of God, how much ignorance, not to say perversity, remained ! But the divisions in the Church are not so serious as many represent. In many cases they turn upon such questions as Church government, respecting which no very definite rules are laid down in Scripture ; and those who thus differ can and do fully acknowledge one another as Christ's disciples and servants, and frequently co-operate as such.

I think I need say very little about principles of interpretations, as this is a subject which rarely troubles those who read the Bible with the desire to know the mind of God ; though it is a subject of great interest to the theologians who