

or teach such things as the true Church had never taught or believed ; and this in such a manner as to make people believe that they were very holy and religious ; and thus, “ *by good words and fair speeches, deceiving the hearts of the simple,*” or the unguarded, for the mere purpose of “ *drawing away disciples after them.*”

But some might say :—there can be no harm in having a different form of worship, and a different society, while we agree in the main doctrines of the Bible ? Let us see, then, what warrant the Word of God gives us for so doing.

It does not appear that they who were causing divisions among the first Christians, always entertained errors of a very material nature. Some are censured for mere difference of opinion concerning their lawful ministers, and for nourishing a greater respect for one than for another. This, indeed, might have appeared unto them very natural. They, no doubt, thought that there was no harm in each of them following those ministers who had been most useful to their souls ; but for this very thing the Apostle tells them that they were “ yet carnal and walking as men.” And in another place it was predicted, that some would come in among them, and that even out of themselves some would arise speaking perverse things, that is :—finding fault with certain things in the Church, and having a stubborn and unruly spirit, or wishing to have all things their own way,—“ to draw away disciples after them”—to form a party of their own ; and thus to “ cause offences contrary to the doctrine,” or in other