

of general Christian experience, confidence, supporting grace and hope of the glory of God, any man in whose heart there has lodged a spark of the Saviour's burning charity will feel that if even a natural interest in the welfare of others may not lead him to search to make another happy his duty as a "witness" for God will cause him to speak out. If in so doing the fountain of feeling be dried up it cannot have been supplied from the river of water of life. Against the quotation by which the idea just alluded to is sought to be sustained, and which, like much poetry in our day, is poor theology, let us place the words of a keen observer and reader of human nature.

"Thoughts shut up spoil,
Like bales unopened to the sun."

Is the reader into whose hands this little pamphlet has fallen, conscious of decline in spiritual life? We leave him to answer a solemn question. Was the first symptoms of decline a more than usual willingness to speak for Christ, or was it a blush to own His name? At the same time we ask our unconverted readers whether the reticence of Christians, respecting the gospel they profess so highly to esteem, has not been one of the greatest stumbling-blocks in their way?

It is feared that this excitement may be *deceptive and injurious*. That there is a fearful possibility of self-deception all must admit. Against this danger, frequent warnings were sounded by Christ and his Apostles. Pastors of the present day need carefully to follow their example. At those special periods, when parties present themselves for church-membership, whether during the special services of the communion week, or those more extended services, such as were being held when the sermon under review was preached, no uncertain sound should be uttered. If it be possible that any dream of conversion, because of a "mere momentary elevation of feeling," no remissness of the pastor should encourage him to dream on; on the other hand, care should be taken lest some weak, yet sincere soul, with his face heavenward, should be disheartened by a comparison with some advanced christian who has reached, we will not say an Alpine height,—the idea is too cold,—but some one of those Pisgah heights, whence he may catch near glimpses of the promised land. To the "fresket" illustration we