

And St. James in a like passage, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands ye sinners ; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."* What are the words of our Saviour to the buyers and sellers in the temple, " My house is the house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves." With what stern severity does our Lord reprove the hypocritical worshipper, " Woe unto you, scribes and pharisees, hypocrites ; for ye pay tithe of mint, and anise, and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, mercy, judgment, and faith. Cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also."† What says the great Apostle of the Gentiles ? " If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy."‡ What is the awful language of the Book of Revelation ? " And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh any abomination, or maketh a lie."§

And without this practical faith not all the beauty, nor all the gold of the temple will avail us, nay the very pavement of the sanctuary would cry out against us. But if, while we employ God's creatures in the service of his sanctuary, we build on *right principles* ; if we worship him with devout reverence, and live always as in His presence ; if we employ *right means*, and never neglect the continual refreshment of our souls by reading His most holy Word, offering to Him the tribute of continual Prayer and Praise, and by feeding upon Christ in our hearts in His most holy Sacrament ; and if these issue in *right actions*, in a humble, pure and holy life, then the " Staff of Beauty " will be whole and unbroken, then will our Lord's words be fulfilled to the very letter, " these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

It only remains that I say a few words on the " Staff of Bands ;" in other words, that outward and inward holiness are promoted by an union of Christians in a rightly-

* St. James iv. 8.

† 1 Cor. iii. 17.

‡ St. Matthew xxi. 13 ; xxiii. 23, 26.

§ Revel. xxi. 27.