

To t

that particular subject, we consider erroneous; nor should it be supposed inconsistent with our perceiving, and most cheerfully acknowledging all the excellency that exists in the character of those who differ from us. Such a man as Leander Van Ess being found in the Church of Rome, should not on the one hand, make us blind to the evils of the catholic faith; nor should his connexion with such a system prevent us, on the other, from admiring the ardent zeal for the diffusion of the Scriptures by which he is so eminently distinguished. We should at all times be willing to bring every sentiment to the standard of the word of God. It is only by the patient and careful application of this rule that truth is to be made manifest and confirmed, and that error, wherever it lurks, is to be detected: and we are not influenced by the true spirit of enquiry, if we are not as desirous that our own errors (if we inadvertently hold any) be brought to light, as those of others. If we are under the influence of this spirit, our single aim will be to discover the will of God, that we may reduce it to practice. We will thus be prepared to renounce whatever we formerly held, the moment it is shewn to be inconsistent with this will, and to receive what we formerly opposed, as soon as we discover that it corresponds with it. Is it not much to be feared that a jealousy of our own little personal characters; a fear of surrendering our own implied infallibility, by acknowledging that we formerly were wrong; or a dread of the consequences of certain discoveries, to our own little personal interests, prevents many from seeing the force of arguments, which, were it not for such a kind of influence, they would feel to be irresistible?

Here let us recollect that it is an express com-