

And, too, it is painfully true that we have another order of opponents or opposers in some who profess to be with us in the work of reform. There are not wanting those who are called disciples whom we must account a serious drawback to our labors—not designedly so, but yet not the less certainly. Ignorant of the principles they have avowedly assumed and received; lacking in self-denial; bold where they should be meek, and conceited where they should be humble and self-abased; zealous where zeal is a damage, and slothful and inactive where zeal is indispensable; more controversial than prayerful; more particular in maintaining correct views and sound doctrine than correct living and sound practice. Avowed friends such as these, minister more damage to the cause we plead than some full faced enemies. Brother Paul, faithful in the work of the Lord, wrote with tears in his eyes about just such friends: "Many [professing the gospel] walk, of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ." Phil. 3: 18.

Still, with every class of opposition and with opposers of every character and stamp, the principles of the reformation pled from heaven's own Book are gaining ground and rooting out the principles of partyism. The weakness of a majority of opposers—who call themselves opposers is demonstrated in this, that they are at all possible pains to slander and misrepresent if they can do so with safety to themselves, but dare not stand before us and challenge a single principle we maintain.

And while we have within our ranks, as the primitive friends of Jesus had in their ranks, those who cannot be commended, we are happy to say that the brotherhood of disciples is a brotherhood of which we are not ashamed. Men of talent, of learning, of great scriptural knowledge, of true devotion, loving truth and the Author of it with all their heart, appear in our horizon as we look over in our mind's eye the multitude of brethren in the Lord who have vowed allegiance to the one gospel, the one pure creed, the one church of Christ, and the one Divine King. It is an honor and a pleasure to assist in heralding the Lord's truth, with a company of brothers so noble, devotional, and self-denying.

Yea, and it is greatly encouraging and satisfactory, in commencing the labors of the year, to realize that we have the confidence of the brotherhood. Indeed, during the years of our public exertions, it has not been our lot to witness or to hear of the slightest indication of a want of confidence in us, with a single exception—an exception that we