

THE HIGHER LIFE.

HOLINESS.

As the doctrine is preached and the witnesses of the blessing multiply, many cautions will be needed. All that grows up under this cultivation will not be wheat. First. The people should be taught that offenses will come, and should be made ready for them. Some will hypocritically, and others ignorantly, say they are sanctified wholly. Such will bring a reproach upon the cause. Second, when this happens, the preacher should be careful not to draw back, and seem ashamed of the doctrine. Let him be forward to bear the reproach, and encourage others to do the same. What would be thought of a minister who should stop preaching regeneration, because some or many who professed to be born again have made shipwreck of faith and become grossly immoral. Third. If the people, some of them, speculate and question in regard to the truth of the doctrine, urge them first to seek, and afterward to speculate. No man ever did or will understand it, until experience unfolds it. Experience on this theme is as needful to understand it as it is on the new birth. O that all the disputers would become humble seekers! Fourth. When the blessing is attained, the possessor of it should be urged to pass on. How much depends on this, none can express, and none but the experienced can conceive. Standing still will be fatal to any sanctified soul—fatal, I mean, as to his retaining the witness and the comforts of that state.

I would suggest that we who profess to believe in this doctrine should be most careful of our language in regard to it. Let us never speak of it with lightness. If the doctrine is true, it is most sacredly and solemnly true. Sometimes I have heard it said of an erring or an accused brother, he is one of your sanctified Christians.

I care not what offense is charged on that brother; in nine cases out of ten, at a venture, I would rather be guilty of his offense than to have been the author of such a remark concerning him. For that remark was not so much of an insinuation that the brother in question was insincere, as it was a charge by inuendo that all who ever possessed the blessing, as Fisk,