

ing spirit spreading among us than was visible years ago. The sects seem now willing to give us a place among them as a sect, provided we will covenant with them to let them alone! I remember to have said to that old Virginia veteran, T. M. Henley, years ago when he was complaining of the hostility of our opponents, that their opposition was not so fearful as their blandishments and brotherly kindness.

The war cry that was sounded by the sects in the early days of reformation was a note distinct to every chivalrous herald of the cross to draw the sword, and to march forth to the contest shoulder to shoulder. Then we had energy and confidence, now we hesitate and calculate, and many seem to think that the battle is fought and the victory is won. Has the enemy struck his colors? Are the gates open to us? Have they laid down their arms? Napoleon, energetic as he was, though he "could distance expedition," was once brought to parley, and in his dalliance, he lost his kingdom—"Ye did run well, who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth." Of all states we must not forget, that of indifference to truth and error, is the most deceiving. Samaria is an example to us of mixing the truth of God with human dreams and idolatry. Therefore it was said of them that "they feared the Lord, and served other gods!"

Never let any of us think that the millennium is at our doors, because the sects are willing to allow our orthodoxy, or abate their opposition. In all material matters neither we nor they have changed. But as an apology for the old slander they uttered against us in the beginning, they say we have changed. If that is so, that is, if we have changed our principles or our positions, justice demands that we shall say so, and ask their forgiveness! We have treated them very badly, if there was no truth in our allegations against them, and if they have the truth, we slandered them in charging so many errors upon them. This is clearly our duty if what they allege is true. May we not say then, on the other hand, that if they misunderstood us and were hasty to condemn us, to put us down, now that they begin to know us a little better, is it not their duty to say so just as frankly?

It was much easier for them to cry us down under the odious charge of Unitarianism, of denying the Holy Spirit, than to disprove our positions regarding *the faith, the confession, baptism, remission of sins, and the promise of the Holy Spirit.* This "Ark of the Covenant" must yet bring down "*Dagon*," the child of pride and presumption. Not to weary you and the brethren now, I want to stir up the spirit of the Christian Baptist, which you, not long since, told us you felt waning in you. Let not our Colleges raise up men to perpetuate this ill-formed and unshapen state of things, but ere the veterans of the first movement leave the earth, let the things that are wanting be "*set in order.*" As Luther left Lutheranism, so it is now, barring the corruptions. A hint to the wise is sufficient!

Dr. Johnson used to say that a habit of looking at the best side of every event is better than a thousand a year.