

The heavens are thus represented as silent, yet powerful preachers, declaring by their extended line the glory of God through all the earth, and to the end of the world; and they have this advantage over the most learned of mankind, that they can speak to all nations, and that at the same time, by "a common language to teach them all at once."

"Though voice nor sound inform the ear,
Well known the language of their song,
When one by one the stars appear,
Led by the silent moon along;
Till round the earth from all the sky
Thy beauty beams on every eye.—MONTGOMERY.

EPISTOLATORY.

TO MR. S. W. FROM A. W.

March 17, 18—.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

I AM quite resigned to whatever may be the will of God concerning me. If I do recover, I wish to dedicate my life to him who has hitherto been all I wanted. In this affliction I have been led to see the insufficiency of all that earth can give, to make the soul tranquil in the prospect of dissolution! O, who can estimate the value of a conscious interest in Christ, when every other refuge is gone? None but those whose spiritual perception being clear, can stand between both worlds without dread! And this can be effected only through faith in the atonement; there hangs all a sinner's hope!

My late interview with you has often furnished me with subjects of pleasing recollection, and led me to anticipate the happiness of that state where there is neither sickness nor death. O what a prospect! We shall rest our weary feet on that Mount Zion, where all the Christian pilgrims meet! May we all appear there! Surely, my brother, we may say, "The lines are fallen unto us in pleasant places." When we look back to the past of our journeying, O, what mercies have been conferred upon us! What deliverances have been wrought in our behalf! And what the Lord has already done for us he can repeat; let us only be found in our providential place, faithfully doing that work, which our master has assigned us. I often think of you and my dear sister, with your rising offspring. Remember, "the promise is unto us, and to our children,"—a promise of greater value than all the treasures of gold and silver,—"The Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest love." Deut. xxx. 6. I praise God for any measure of faith, and especially for that which enables me to rely on him for the guidance of our children. I hope the work of God is prospering with you. Is my sister full of courage in this blessed service? She must "labour and not faint," and she shall receive the reward!

The coming of the Lord draweth nigh! He is at hand to cheer his followers, as well when clouds and darkness rest upon their providential path, as when they are beset with their enemies, and called forth to hand combat. He cometh to dispel the mist, to thrust out the enemy from before them, and to say, "Destroy them!" He cometh to reward his servants! Let us take courage! Let us be found

"Sweetly waiting at his feet,
Till all his will be done."

O, the prospect before a believer! how transporting! What a moment will that be,—the moment of dissolution! If we be found "perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord,"

With ease our souls through death shall glide,
Into their Paradise;
And thence on wings of angels ride
Triumphant through the skies!"

THE WESLEYAN.

"HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS."

THERE never was, perhaps, a time, when there was greater need for Wesleyans to observe and practise the exhortation, which we have selected as our motto, than the present. Error, in various forms, is some less essential and less dangerous than others, but in all prejudicial to piety, is making its appearance, and spreading around us; and whilst surrounded with false doctrine, and enticed by its seductive allurements, they should be especially on their guard, and "hold fast the form of sound words" which they have been taught.

The doctrines which characterize us as a body, are "sound words"; and the "form" in which they appear is to be found in the SACRED VOLUME, which we believe to be the only and sufficient rule of faith, experience and practice.

They should "hold them fast,"—1. *Theoretically*: by cordially and unreservedly yielding up their understandings to their belief. 2. *Experimentally*: by seeking after them, in the use of appointed means, not resting without the actual and personal possession of vital godliness, and the privileges of the Gospel, and by retaining the enjoyment of spiritual blessings, "walking in the light as He is in the light, and having fellowship one with another." 3. *Practically*: by a strict and conscientious observance of the duties of religion, keeping the divine precepts, "walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless,"—"denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and living soberly, righteously and godly in this present world," and persevering, through evil report and through good report, unto the end.

Ready for all God's perfect will,
Their acts of truth and love repeat,
Till death his endless mercies seal,
And make the sacrifice complete.

4. They should "hold them fast," by not allowing themselves to be drawn away from the faith once delivered to the saints,"—"tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;" but firmly cleaving to the "TRUTH as it is in Jesus," and whilst carefully "proving all things," yet resolute in "holding fast that which is good."

The doctrines of the Wesleyans have been rendered, under the Divine Blessing, instrumental in saving thousands of souls from sin, misery and hell, into a state of holiness and happiness, preparatory to their admission into heaven; and, with confidence we affirm, the doctrines of the Bible, as held by the Methodists, cordially believed, personally experienced, and faithfully practised, will lead to present and eternal salvation.

The METHODISTS have cause to be satisfied with their theological system of faith, experience and practice, as deduced from the Sacred Scriptures; and until they can find a better, which we sincerely believe they never can do, we exhort them to "hold fast the form of sound words."

The concluding part of the Conference Address will appear in our next number.

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