

THE

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A DISCOURSE.

THE following is a discourse from the pen of brother William Hayden. It is like himself—bold, independent, strong, scriptural, useful. We speak for it a well digested reading. We are assured, that, on both sides of the line running between Canada and the American territory, there are places where this discourse will be peculiarly applicable:—D O.

Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

“And there was a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.”

False ambition has perhaps been productive of more evil to the human race, than any other cause. It is nothing else than supreme selfishness. It sometimes assumes very specious names and appearances. When it strives for the mastery in the political world, it styles itself patriotism. Then you hear the demagogue eloquently pleading the interests of the “dear people,” the honor of his country, &c., while denouncing his competitors, as enemies to both. When it seeks for pre-eminence in the church, it shows itself in zeal for orthodoxy, for long established usages, &c. Or perchance it grows dissatisfied with all these, and would throw society into a ferment and proclaim “reform,” “progress with the spirit of the age,” placing itself at the head of parties, armies, and nations, or if disappointed in this, turning misanthrope, finds fault with every thing and complains of the ingratitude of mankind. In the Church, the individual no longer able to endure or fellowship the corruption and hypocrisy of his brethren, leaves the Church and concludes he can best serve his God, (i. e.) his own pride and envy, alone. Such persons are very zealous Christians so long as they can be put forward and have things in their own way. If an individual is suspected of possessing more of the confidence and esteem of the brethren than himself, he can never hear without pain, such brother commended, but to ease his mind with as good a grace as may be, he will admit there are some good qualities in the brother, “but” he has certain faults, which ought to be known in order to form a just estimate of his character.

Doubtless many deceive themselves into a notion that their motive