

I turn from these saddening reflections, to drop a few lines to my professing brethren. We have seen the little band, who united by the tie of covenant, and the badge of profession, formed the nucleus of our infant church, at every commemoration of their death of their risen Saviour, enlarged by encouraging accessions. But it is safe to rejoice with trembling, and reasonable to expect, that 'all are not Israel who are of Israel.' It will be so, as long as those who hold the key of admission are fallible men ; as long as there are candidates, who deceive themselves, or may deceive others. It is not necessary to tell you, that to be enrolled in the register of the church, is no evidence that your name is recorded among 'the living in Jerusalem.' But it is highly important, that you should be aware of the danger, of being unconsciously a dead branch on the living vine, and cherishing 'a hope, which shall perish with the giving up of the ghost.' It is enough to make the blood of any one, who has not attained the full assurance of his christian integrity, freeze in his veins, when he considers the causes which may operate in the production, and continuance of fatal delusion. Consider a moment the possibility, that those religious exercises from which you date the commencement of your christian existence, may have been the counterfeit operations of selfishness, excited by the mere love of happiness, and attachment to any thing which relieves its fears, or favours its views. How easily may anxiety for one's state be mistaken for conviction of his guilt ; the pleasure arising from the belief of danger past, for joy in the Holy Ghost. and peace in believing ; and a fond attachment to God arising from the mere apprehension, that he has become the sinner's particular and unchangeable friend, be substituted, for that genuine love of God, which is founded on a sense of his own intrinsic loveliness, and which will continue to exist, whether he is viewed as reconciled, or not. How likely is it, that a hope thus insufficiently embraced, will be se-