

dential development set in the Church, acting within the limit of His Holy Word; apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues; covet earnestly, under the Spirit and the Word, the best gifts, and find the more excellent way. In their discipline, in love for the maintenance of purity of doctrine, and rectitude of life, what they bound on earth through the Spirit would be bound in Heaven. Dwelling together in love, having received the Holy Ghost, hating sin with a perfect hatred, yet with tears recovering the offender, whom they forgave, he would be forgiven in Heaven; forbearing to the utmost with the offender in a Christlike forbearance, whom they pronounced incorrigible, Heaven would condemn. "Whosoever sins ye remitted, they are remitted unto them, and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained;" remitted and retained, not as an arbitrary and judicial act, but remitted and retained as the last effort of their Christlike brotherhood under the direction of the Holy Ghost; a brotherhood, Christlike, in hatred of sin, in love of the sinner, in patience of instruction and warning, and in willingness of sacrifice if the transgressor may thereby be brought back to rectitude, fellowship and God.

Where is this Church? What has become of it on the earth? With what diligent search may we find it? And yet this is the Church of the Lord Jesus, whom we think we love. Surely His visage is so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men. How great the privilege, the oppor-