

the effort is made to compromise the whole movement that united condemnation is pronounced. But no matter what the character of the offence or offences, so soon as the offending one learns to walk in the Spirit, that walk is recognized without prejudice, just as certainly and as completely as if former offences had not existed. There can be nothing done on the part of the spiritual which in the least would imply humiliation on the part of one towards another, or towards the whole Association. Every one transacts his business directly with God, and rejoices or grieves over every other according as he is walking or not walking in the Spirit. To refuse to recognize one as walking in the Spirit who does not is as much the essence of love as to rejoice over one who does. Hence it is that this movement is a perfect contrast to all the denominations in the matter of purging its body by discipline.

Nor yet, unlike the sects, has it, nor can it have, organized efforts for the care of the weak ones, or for aggressive work. All these things are left to individual effort, as such individuals are led of the Spirit to act, the spiritual recognizing with joy such work when the call is of God, and rejoicing in its non-success when men and women run before they are sent. When the Holy Ghost says to one, go on this mission, or to another, take such a field of labour, the spiritual send them on their way rejoicingly. But when the work is not of God, or is disciplinary in its character, then they simply stand still to see God vindicate Himself either in their disappointment, or their personal, spiritual improvement.

And yet, although so diverse in all its methods, as compared with the denominations, it is nevertheless more compact than they all. For example, when one who is spiritual performs any public act, this act is, of necessity, sanctioned by all the spiritual. The whole strength of the movement gathers around said act and its performer, and claims both as a part of the whole. Hence, the least member of the body of Christ can speak and act as the exponent of all. Therefore, we maintain that God's law, *unity is strength*, has, and must have its very best illustration in these *acts of the apostles*.

TENDENCY TO IMPROPER INDEPENDENCE MUST, WILL BE CHECKED.

The manner in which this improper spirit is searched out, and the parties exhibiting it either corrected or weeded out, may with advantage to all be examined into.

And here again, the subject must be looked at without prejudice, with a readiness on our part to acquiesce in the work of God. How then is this movement to be preserved from those who falsely represent it. That such parties will from time to time undertake this task, we must fully expect. The past history of the movement illustrates this, and the future will undoubtedly equal if not exceed the past in this respect.

Now this class of false exponents of the walk in the Spirit must be discriminated against, whether they are intentionally false in their testimony, or sincere, and hence honestly deceived. The fact of their testimony and lives not being in harmony must be sufficient to have them cut off, or the fact that they do not belong to it recognized, no matter how great their desire in that direction.

These facts too must be recognized even when the false testimony is given by persons possessing exceptional gifts, and rare Christian character, that is, when the life is judged by creed standards. To falter in our cutting off judgments even under such circumstances is deadly in its character to the movement itself. For example, let one possessed of all possible excellencies of character and natural gifts of mind profess, in our gatherings, to be led of the Spirit, and at the same time publicly illustrate the contrary, it may be, in some apparently small, trivial matter. Now, if this act is sanctified by the Association, or even winked at, because the party in question is in office or prominent by reason of proficiency in the arts of eloquence, in council, or has earned, humanly speaking, the consideration of the rest by long years of unblemished life and usefulness in Association work, no matter what be the set-