

of it; "My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, while I meditate on thee," Psal. lxxiii. 5, 6.

There is little written, so far as I know, upon this subject. Most discourses of this nature digress into ejaculations. I have, with the help of God, cut out my way though the rock, not finding any path that others had gone in before me; so that I have not offered that to you which cost me nothing. For the style of it, it is plain; but truth, when it is in the plainest dress, is most comely. The star shines brightest in its native lustre. Divinity hath so much intrinsic beauty, that it needs no art of wit or fancy to set it off. Who goes to embroider a pearl? or paint over gold? this would but debase and eclipse it; it is a sign of a wanton christian to look most at the fringing and garnishing of a truth. I wish it be not the sin of many in this city; they like the dressing, but loath the food. The blue flowers which grow among the corn make a fine show, and are pleasing to the eye, yet are prejudicial to the harvest. Rhetorical flourishes may please the fancies of men, but I much question whether they will not lessen Christ's spiritual harvest at the end of the world. When men preach rather words than matter, they catch people's ears, not their souls; they do but court, not convert. If the patient's wound bleeds, nay rankles, it is better for him to have a deep incision made in the flesh, than to bind it about with silk, or dress it with aromatic ointments.

True it is, ministers ought to clothe the truths they preach in decent expressions to preserve them from contempt; though they must come in plainness of speech, not in rudeness of speech. But, let them take heed, lest, with their affected new-coined phrases, unsuitable to that gravity the apostle speaks of, Tit. ii. 7, they adulterate and corrupt the simplicity of the word; like some kinds of sauces and compounds which take away the natural taste and savour of the meat. As for you, my friends, I hope the Lord hath given, (at least some of you,) a spiritual palate, to relish and thirst after the sincere milk of the word, 1 Pet. ii. 2. A savoury heart is for wholesome doctrine. How glad should I be, dear friends, if I might either by preaching, or writing, become savingly instrumental for your good, and before I die, might