

sanctification is progressive, and goes on through life : and though in the ungenial climate of the world in which the Christian lives, this heavenly plant cannot attain its full maturity ; yet its progress intimates, its growth in grace distinctly shews, that it *will* terminate in absolute perfection ; that the life of grace will be assuredly completed in a life of glory.

These, then, beloved brethren, have been the matter of my own personal and private faith ; and will, I trust, be found to be established by the word of God ; and I hope to be sanctioned by your recollections, when I say, that I have endeavoured to make them the matter of my public preaching also. Impressed with a full conviction of the alienation of the heart in its affections and desires from God, it has been my object to make reconciliation to Him, the distinct and prominent point of my ministerial addresses ; at all times telling you how free the offer is of forgiveness through the blood of Christ, and how readily the Holy Spirit's aid and influence will be imparted, through the channel of the Saviour's mediatorship, to all who ask it.

II. Such, then, beloved brethren, is my appeal in reference to the past ; what must be my exhortation in reference to the future ? “ Only let your conversation be as it becometh the Gospel of Christ ; that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the Gospel.” The term here rendered “ conversation,” signifies *citizenship*—that is, attachment to the privileges, and obedience to the duties, of the city to which a man belongs. If, then, brethren, you have been made the citizens of the heavenly