

But with regard to the young: Christian Parents having sought to understand these matters for themselves, should feel themselves bound to instruct their children in a knowledge thereof. The speaker feels to this day the value of such a course adopted towards himself in the days of his youth, by his late dear and honoured Father, when such works as "Palmer's Protestant Dissenter's Catechism, and others of a kindred character formed our text books. In this matter too, our Ministerial and other Bible classes for young people, might become perhaps more effective than they now are. For as we have attempted to show, "The want of an intelligent piety, is the greatest source of our denominational weakness," so a people thus instructed in our principles from God's word, would prove a source of strength within us, not easily to be daunted, discouraged or overcome.

We have before referred to the want of more frequent aggregate meetings of our churches as a source of weakness. If however this be true, and their more frequent occurrence be impracticable, could not more sectional or district association be attempted in the interim? Last year in making arrangements for meetings in connexion with our Missionary operations, some of us hoped that we might have secured something of this kind, so that the churches of different sections of the province might meet once a year about half way between the annual assemblings of this Union. Such meetings would tend to cement us more closely together, and give us the opportunity of elucidating our principles, and encouraging and strengthening each other in the service of our Lord.

But lastly—In order to promote our principles, we who are planted as watchmen in Zion, must have a right understanding and appreciation of them ourselves. Be not only familiar with them but able to present them attractively and with authority from God's word. Yes my Brethren! we need not only to be watchmen, sounding the trumpet of the Gospel in Zion, but as workmen building up the church in all things as those who need not be ashamed; rightly dividing the word of God: "and as scribes well instructed in all the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven; or as rulers, ruling and guiding well the church of God.

How much my Brethren depends on us! If in this or any other matter, "The prophets prophecy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means, and the people love to have it so, what shall we do in the end thereof?" Jer. v. 31. Thus it may have been in days gone by, but shall it be so now?

How solemn and important then at this time is our Mission! The *prosperity, stability and extension* of the church on right principles, as well as its consequent increase in heaven, depends greatly upon ourselves.—Who then? Who, we may ask, is sufficient for these things? We have not, like missionaries in heathen lands, so much now to plant *new* churches upon the model of the New Testament; but have in some measure to undo much that has been done, and to seek to lay the foundations broader and deeper than before on scripture truth. We may find habits of long standing, and great and strong prejudices to contend with: we shall need much grace and wisdom. But blessed be God, these are promised without measure. Let us earnestly seek and we shall find. Never forgetting, however, that our church polity, valuable and Scriptural as we rightly deem it to be, is subordinate to the work of saving souls and the glory of God. But only subordinate to this, and indeed one way of promoting that glory is, by establishing the principle—that Christ alone is the Ruler and Lawgiver of his church; through which we are to seek that He may rule the nations, and cause His truth every where to triumph.

If, then, this may best be promoted by the principles we profess, and which we conceive shall at length every where prevail; shall we despise the day of small things? Or yield to despondency because of the greatness of the work before us? Nay, my brethren! Let us redouble our energy and pursue the path marked out for us with patience and zeal; and then, in dependence on divine grace, we as churches shall rejoice with the joy of harvest. For the promise shall come, though it may seem to tarry long. Yes! according to the charge to Habakkuk, ch. ii., v. 2-3, which we think, without presumption, we may appropriate,