

the graces and virtues that should beautify and adorn a regenerated and sanctified life.

We further desire to remind you that, as a Church, we have been called into existence to bear testimony to the truth, and in reviewing our history, our principles, position, and prospects, we have much to excite our gratitude, and stimulate to yet nobler effort. Our Constitution, framed by men who hated despotism, gives no unequal advantage to either ministers or people. Our fathers, opposed, reviled and persecuted by State churchism, in the true spirit of nonconformity, placed us, not under the dictation or control of the State, but manfully asserting their freedom from its authority, or depending on it for support, have caused us to inherit a form of government as free from priestly rule on one hand, or servility on the other, as is to be found in this Dominion. Nor should you be indifferent or ungrateful as to the fact, or unprepared earnestly to labor for its preservation.

But no matter how liberal may be our principles, how elastic our Constitution, or how harmonious they may be with the spirit of the age; only as a church shall we fulfil our mission when our consecration to God shall be complete—when divine grace shall have enabled us to put off the old man with his deeds, and to put on the new man, which, after God, is created, in righteousness and true holiness; and when all shall live to reveal unto, and im-

press upon the world, the superlative advantages of vital godliness.

We therefore urge upon you the absolute necessity of becoming "Living epistles, known and read of all men," so that your lives, as well as the oracles of God, with which they should ever accord, shall make known what true religion is, and by a constant manifestation of its power and principles, commend it to mankind.

We especially entreat you to be faithful to your vows. In your business transactions, be truthful, punctual, and honest, that the Gospel be not blamed. In your social relations, exhibit the temper, disposition and feelings which increase friendship, foster affection, and hallow the intercourse of man with man. In your homes, maintain family worship regularly and fervently, that servants and children may be brought in constant contact with religious truth and devotion, so necessary to their spiritual enlightenment, development, and salvation. And as members of the church of God, we most affectionately entreat you to regularly attend the prayer meeting, class meeting, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Make the necessary sacrifices of time or ease, so that the social means of grace shall not decline; for the spiritual life in the church may be judged, and is materially affected, by the attendance thereon. Do not forget that to pray most fervently and believingly, is also an important part of your duty. Sustain your