

a very different person from all this. He may be a meek seeker for truth, blinded, perhaps, but sincere ; he may be a man who has studied and thought, and who in conscience can not adopt the received ideas ; he may be a man who nourishes all the religious affections, who drinks religion with a keener thirst, and from purer springs — or thinks he does — because he has thrown by what seemed to him impediments in the way to the fountain-head — impediments to him, although to you they may be sacred articles of faith. A heretic may be such a man as this, and surely he is not to be denounced and abused for all these peculiarities. And look ye, who, burning with intolerance, would almost call down fire from heaven upon him, he may be, after all, farther advanced in Divine truth and Divine life than *you*, with all your faith, ancient and wide-spread as it is. Such a thing, I say, is *possible*.

But while intolerance like this would seem to fasten more particularly upon the orthodox than upon the heretic sects — upon the Conservative rather than the Reforming Religionist, it may be found with the latter, as well as with the former — and I think it will be found there in our day. The Samaritans in refusing to receive Jesus, exhibited intolerance, but the disciples, in their turn, manifested the very sentiment that excited them. How common this is ! The spirit we denounce, we oppose in the very same spirit. The boasting Liberal approaches the village of the Orthodox Samaritan, but he will have none of him, because his face is set in a suspicious direction. “What an intolerant bigot,” exclaims the liberal, “Oh ! that I could call down fire from heaven.” Nay, but tell me, my friend, is there not more than *one* of you who is intolerant now ? I deprecate persecution for