

fallible and divine origin, appears as consistent and as necessary, as when men having abused and perverted any gift of heaven, it becomes the duty of every philanthropist and faithful subject of the Great King, to apprise them of the consequences, and to warn them of what may prove their utter ruin. There was no occasion to denounce drunkenness before men had discovered the art of extracting from the bounties of God, and had acquired the taste of using to excess fermented liquors; but now that intemperance has become a common sin in the community, there is need of dehortation against this horrid abuse of God's goodness. To be instrumental towards introducing or restoring that state of things which God instituted, and which was once exhibited, in leading the disciples to see that they need but one law-giver—but one book, but one rule, but one bond of union, to make them happy and holy, is a suitable reason for any to write who really believe that conformity to God's revealed will, can alone produce these happy results, and who are persuaded that a want of conformity to it, with its attendant evils, actually exist at the present day.

Zeal for Christian union, like zeal in other matters, is either to be sought or shunned, to be advocated or deprecated, because of that with which it is associated. That which alone deserves the name of Christian Union can only be effected upon scriptural grounds, and not upon any sectarian platform in existence. Such an Union of all real believers, of all sects is supremely to be desired, but a mere union of sects is as supremely to be deprecated. The Pope's chair is found in almost every sect; all synods and councils have need of it; and much of our religious controversies are about who shall sit in the Pope's chair. The faith of every Christian is as summarily comprehended in the New Testament, as the wisest head in Christendom could comprehend it. The New Testament contains the constitution, laws, ordinances, and discipline of the Christian Church, if such things belong to it at all.—Hence the propriety of proposing and advocating this volume, as the only bond of union in the church. But what avails a promise to be governed by this book, unless, this promise be faithfully fulfilled. Why promise to submit to the constitution and laws, usages and institutions, found in this volume, and afterwards require submission to institutions and usages wholly human.

Thussaith the Lord,—“Ye shall not add unto the word which I command, neither shall you diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you. “Keep therefore, and do them, for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations which shall hear all these statutes, and say, surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”—Deut. iv. 2.—6. “Blessed are they who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart.”—Ps. 119.

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