

and that holy light which now lingers over our assemblies, and grows brighter as we gather around the Table of our Lord, will be quenched forever.

We know not indeed what may be the course of things in the future, but a scriptural position steadily maintained must be right for all seasons and on all occasions. We must therefore continue to witness as we have always done, not only for the "*Crown rights of the Redeemer*, but also for the *purity of His house*." "And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them and mercy, and upon the Israel of God."

In connection with these high principles *we must continue to maintain the right of individual churches, to govern themselves without any external interference whatever.* The right of church members in each separate society to share in the administration of their own affairs, and the duty of church members mutually to receive and recognize one another in fellowship. Let us then, like the children of Issachar, be men of understanding. And in these times of error and departure from the truth, let us seek to be distinguished as those who keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus. It is recorded to the high commendation of the church at Ephesus, "that they could not bear those who were evil, and that they had tried those who said they were Apostles and were not, and had found them liars." Like them we must "try the spirits whether they are of God, because many false prophets are gone out into the world." How important in these times of speculation and change, to hold fast the Saviour's word, and to keep the ordinances as they have been delivered to us. In order to this, it is necessary that we be men of understanding, able intelligently to apply the rule which God hath given us.

Without this we shall be continually in danger of being unsettled in our opinions even upon points of the highest importance, and thus of being "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." Prove all things and hold fast that which is good.

*Like the men of Issachar we "ought to have understanding of the times," "and contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints."* We cannot be too much awake to the important fact that things are changing materially around us, in almost every department of human, thought and action. There are new doctrines, opinions and principles, and these are coming more and more to arrange men into parties, in carrying on the government of this world. From almost every quarter, a different style of attack has been adopted against christianity. We must be able to meet with the shifting scenes of the world, and the