

conscious. They are seeking peace for troubled conscience, or some alleviation of the weight of their sorrow, some relief from the heavy burden of life; or they go to worship God and with grateful hearts render thanks for his mercies. Assembling together in this frame of mind every appearance of strife is to be deprecated, for nothing can be more repugnant to the spirit of true religion. In the pulpit as well as at the church door every thing which ministers to angry feelings should be avoided as one would avoid the plague. Six days out of seven are more than sufficient for such matters.

The great object for which a congregation exists should be steadily kept in view. Matters of lesser importance should be treated as such and not magnified as if they were all important. Questions, which gender strife and about which men waste much violent energy, are of profoundly little importance in comparison with the edification of christian people and the development of christian charity. The matters about which men often quarrel and laboriously as well as obstinately do battle are not worth a breach of christian charity.

Let men only elevate their thoughts as to obtain a right view of the end for which a congregation is organized and many matters for which zealous people strive will then be seen to dwindle away in importance and to be less than nothing. It is bad enough to quarrel about a matter of importance, but to wage bitter war about a mere matter of church furniture, or some question of externals as to modes of worship, or what might be called the mere drapery of religion is a fatuity the wickedness of which is equalled only by its folly.

There are seasons when there would seem to be a very epidemic of wrangling amongst congregations. A dark cloud hangs over men's minds. The over-heated blood fills the surcharged brain. Nothing only appears then worth liv-

ing for, namely to gain one's purpose,—to have one's own way, and to put those who differ from us to their bitter purification. On other matters the man may be sane enough; but as to the question in dispute he cannot consider it dispassionately, he cannot indeed consider it at all. As regards such question he has ceased to be responsible. It has seized him and drives him forward. He is as one possessed. In such a case it is clear that any influence from without can avail nothing. For no human power can change the heart and make men love one another.

“To raze out the written troubles of the brain;

“And with some sweet oblivious antidote  
“Cleanse the stuffed bosom of that perilous stuff

“Which weighs upon the heart.”

There is but one remedy. “Therein the patient must minister to himself” either by obeying the injunction of Paul, “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice,” or as such counsels are too often interpreted in modern times, by staying away from church altogether; or by going over to a rival denomination and henceforth entertaining a poor opinion of the present condition and future prospects of those who are left behind.

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The Rev. P. Galbraith has we understand gone on a visit to Ontario.

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Rev. D. McKay of Gairloch left for Scotland a few days ago and thus Gairloch is again vacant.

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St. Andrews congregation New Glasgow is said to be negotiating with the Rev. Mr. Carruthers with a view to his settlement as their minister

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The amount paid towards supplementing stipends in this Presbytery last year was according to the Colonial Committee report £270, and not £373 as erroneously stated in our last.

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