

suppose, that the witnessing by others, of the dispensation of this sacrament, is often rendered instrumental, either for their conversion, or their advancement in holiness? As regards the ordinance of the Supper, one of the more immediate objects, is to call into active operation, and invigorate the graces already in existence; and such only as have been constituted the friends of Jesus have a right to observe this sacred institution. Notwithstanding the most strict and conscientious scrutiny, on the part of those whose province it is to grant admission, still, it is to be feared that persons who are the enemies of Christ may take a seat at his table, some of whom, however, before their departure from it, may become the subjects of his renovating power. And if there be nothing unreasonable in such a supposition, is it not to be hoped that others, though not communicating, may be "turned from darkness unto light," through the instrumentality of observing the solemn exercises which are in progress? Still, let office-bearers employ the utmost care, in regard to those whom they permit to participate in this ordinance. And let none who are conscious to themselves that they are yet strangers to the influences of the gospel, presume to take part in such an observance, from the idea that Christ may *possibly* render it effectual to their conversion. The order which the Great Head of the Church has established, is, that through faith in himself, we become his disciples; and then we shall have his welcome to partake of the children's bread. To be made a new creature, let the sinner strictly attend, together with other means of grace, to the preaching of the gospel. This institution, God, in the several ages of the Church, has been pleased to render eminently effectual for the salvation of men; perhaps to a greater degree, than all his other appointments combined. When we meet in public, for the purpose of hearing the message of life, we enjoy the most favourable scope for the application and fulfilment of one of the