

feeling displayed; and when these circumstances pass away, the kindness and liberality cease. But scriptural benevolence is not only "full of good works, but without partiality." It is regulated by discretion, by a considerate regard to the merits of the respective claims which may be presented, and is thus discriminating, but none deserving will be willingly overlooked or neglected. "As ye have opportunity," says Paul, "do good unto all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith." They, who exemplify a resemblance to the language of Scripture thus expressed, become as "trees of righteousness," showing, by their fruitfulness in works of love, that they are "the planting of the Lord;" "bringing forth their fruit in its season," or as the fountain sending forth its refreshing waters, they are ready to meet every demand according to its merits and their ability.

When you consider the principle from which scriptural benevolence springs, the spirit in which its acts must be performed, the standard showing its extent, and the spontaneous or habitual character of its exercise, all is so very different from what is natural to us, that, if the language of Scripture respecting this feature of character be understood and admitted, a change must be seen to be necessary to produce not only right views, but also right feelings respecting the subject. Scriptural benevolence is thus seen to be a grace, inasmuch as the operations of the Holy Spirit are necessary to bring us under the influence of the teachings of the Scriptures respecting the duty, and to attend to it in the spirit and manner which will render it a service acceptable to God.

[To be continued.]

The gains of the world, and the delights of sense, will surfeit, but never satisfy; but the communication of Divine favour and grace will satisfy but never surfeit.—*Matthew Henry.*

## IMITATION OF CHRIST.

It is reported in the Bohemian story (says Jeremy Taylor) that St. Wenceslaus, their king, one winter night, going to his devotions in a remote church, barefoot, in the snow and sharpness of unequal and pointed ice, his servant Podavivus, who waited upon his master, and who endeavoured to imitate his affections and his piety, began to faint through the violence of the snow and cold, till the king commanded him to follow him, and set his feet in the same footsteps, which his feet should mark for him. The servant did so, and either fancied a cure or found one; for he followed his prince, helped forward with shame and zeal to his imitation, and by his forming footsteps for him in the snow. In the same manner does our blessed Jesus; for, since our way is troublesome, obscure, full of objection and danger, apt to be mistaken, and to affright our industry, he commands us to mark his footsteps, to tread where his feet have stood; and not only invites us forward by the argument of his example, but he had trodden down much of the difficulty, and made the way easier and fit for our feet. For he knows our infirmities, and himself hath felt their experience in all things but in the neighbourhood of sin; and, therefore he hath proportioned a way and a path to our strengths and capacities, and, like Jacob, had marched softly and in evenness with the children and the cattle, to entertain us by the comforts of his company, and the influence of a perpetual guide.

He that gives alms to the poor takes Jesus by the hand; he that patiently endures injuries and affronts helps him to bear his cross; he that comforts his brother in affliction gives an amiable kiss of peace to Jesus; he that bathes his own and his neighbour's sins in tears of penance and compassion washes his Master's feet. We lead Jesus into the recesses of our heart by holy meditations; and we enter into his heart when we express him in our actions; for so the apostle says;—"He that is in Christ walks as he also walks." Thus the actions of our life relate to him by way of worship and religion; but the use is admirable and effectual when our actions refer to him as to our copy, and we transcribe the original to the life.