

good work in them also, "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

In the second place, let us see the imperative obligation under which we lie to hold by attainments already made, and in the stedfast contemplation of the standard set before us in God's Word, to walk by that same rule, to mind that same thing. While, on the one hand, we are not to allow the diversities which may separate brethren to prevent us from acknowledging and acting upon the relationship which exists notwithstanding; so, on the other hand, we are not to allow our regard for them, even viewed as God's people, to outweigh our regard for the authority of God himself. We are not to look, for instance, upon any portion of divine truth as less entitled to be authoritative with us because some whom we regard as brethren make light of it, may even deny and oppose it. What we have here to consider is, not the question which is often very idly proposed, Is the belief of this or the other truth which God may have been pleased to reveal essential to salvation? but, Is its cordial reception, is the submission of my mind to its authority, is the regulating of my conduct by its light, is this essential to the due discharge of my duty to Him from whom the revelation has come? This is not judging a brother; but it is endeavouring to judge myself, that I may not be judged. If I have been favoured with clearer and fuller discoveries of the truth than he has yet attained, it is not by acting merely upon the dimmer light of his mind that I can acquit myself of my responsibility to God. *Whereto we have attained*, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. This is our duty individually: and it becomes all of us most solemnly to consider what practical use we are making of the light with which we have been favoured. Are we careful, in our individual walk and conversation, "to let our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven"?—To whom much has been given, of them shall the more be required.

Fathers and Brethren, what we have been considering is the duty not only of individuals but also of the Church. As the pillar and the ground of the truth, it is bound to hold up the truth in all the extent to which it has been revealed—to declare all the counsel of God, and to regulate its own actings according to the light which it is thus bound to diffuse. In the struggle in which the parent church was lately engaged the question was often proposed, "May not the gospel be savingly preached although the matters in controversy are waived?" The evils of separating from brethren were much dwelt upon; and the injury especially which the cause of religion would sustain from a division was set forth