

unstable in all his ways." We are placed in a world which is unfriendly to religion, whose principles and interests are opposed to a life of holiness, and whose friendship is declared to be enmity with God. But this is not all; we still retain a nature but partially sanctified, with which, as with the world, we are called to keep up a perpetual warfare, and against the corrupt tendencies of which we are commanded incessantly to watch. "Watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation, and what I say unto you, I say unto all, watch."—"Take to yourselves the whole armour of God," etc.

But how can this be effected, if we are not decided. If we halt between the authority of God, and our worldly interests or reputation, we not only act inconsistently with our profession, but we actually stand on perilous ground. For while our minds are fluctuating, sometimes manifesting a preference to religion, and sometimes to the world, our power to resist evil is gradually weakened, and we become the sport of every temptation and sin. To be consistent with our profession, we must shew by example, as well as by precept, that we are on the Lord's side. For what would we think of the man, who, professing attachment to her Majesty, should nevertheless be found in the ranks of her enemies, sanctioning their plans, and sustaining their measures. Would we say that he was sincere in his profession. And where would be the consistency of his character? And may we not ask, where is the consistency of that man, who professes to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness," and who, at the same time, is seeking the favour of the world, tasting its unholy pleasures, and reaping its unrighteous gains? If we turn aside from the path of known duty, and manifest that we disregard the character, government, or worship of God, our conduct plainly contradicts our profession, and is calculated to encourage ungodly men in their career of impiety and sin, to grieve the hearts of those who are striving for the faith of the gospel, and to dishonour God. We may unite with the world, give countenance to wickedness, prostrate our christian character, and shrink from the claims of duty, but we do this *only* at the expense of every claim to Christian Decision. Wanting decision, how must we appear in the view of Him who hath said, "He that is not for me, is against me?" Decision of character is important in every department of life, in order to success in our undertakings, but in nothing is it so important as in religion. Let us then, Dear Brethren, manifest a firm adherence to the cause of truth and duty, under all circumstances: then, and only then, do we oppose the works of dark-