

2. We remark, That peace and unity are *natural* to the religion of Christ ; and therefore, ought to form the very element in which the members of His church shall move ;—the distinguishing characteristic by which they shall be known.

Jesus,—the head of the church—is “ the Prince of Peace.” He came to restore peace between God and man ;—and gave peace to the subjects of his kingdom. How unnatural, then, that there should be strifes and divisions among the subjects of that kingdom which “ is righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” ! They are regarded by Him as one flock ;—one family ;—one temple ;—one body, animated by the same indwelling spirit. The church is (or ought to be) the type of heaven ; in its devotedness to God, its unity, and love : and therefore, the language of Robert Hall is neither too severe nor too strong :—“ Christian societies, regarding each other with the jealousies of rival empires, each aiming to raise itself on the ruins of all others, and scarcely deigning to acknowledge the possibility of salvation out of their pale ;—is the odious and disgusting spectacle which modern Christianity presents.”

If there has been any of this spirit in *us*, let us deeply humble ourselves before God ; and henceforth “ keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

3. As unity itself is a means of extending religion,
 THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST SHOULD SEEK TO REALIZE
 A MORE PERFECT, ENLARGED, AND APPARENT UNION.