

bear the infirmities of the weak ;” not only by spiritual communion, but by a cautious walk ; for frequently babes in grace are staggered and distressed by the life of their elder brethren, when, at the same time, their elder brethren may not altogether be living in sin. The apostle in another place exhorts believers to abstain from “ foolish talking and jesting,” as being inconvenient, Eph. v. 4. ; and in like manner in this place he says, seeing the distressing effects of eating meat in the manner referred to, “ If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no meat while the world standeth.”

2 Peter ii. 1. “ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you ; who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.” Here the apostle does not mean that the false teachers, of whom he speaks, were bought by the precious blood of Christ ; but that ancient Israel was bought by the Lord, and ancient Israel being bought, the false prophets who were among them were bought too. Israel was bought in a fourfold sense ; first, by the destruction of Pharoah and his host ; thus God gave the lives of the Egyptians for the life of his own people, and so the Psalmist sings, “ he redeemed them from the hand of the enemy ; and the waters covered their enemies,” Psalm cvi. 10, 11. Secondly, by the destruction of the Canaanitish nations, for “ there was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, save the Hivites the inhabitants of Gideon : all other they took in