

goods, knowing them to be such, and was publicly convicted thereof a second and third time, he would no longer be considered as an honest man by them who knew these things; nor would it appear of good report to be found in his company, buying his traffick, till some evident tokens of sincere repentance appeared in him. But where iniquity is committed openly, and the authors of it are not brought to justice, nor put to shame, their hands grow strong. Thus the general corruption of the Jews shortly before their state was broke up by the Chaldeans, is described by their boldness in impiety; for as their leaders were connected together in wickedness, they strengthened one another, and grew confident, "Were they ashamed when they had committed abominations? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush." Jer. vi. 15, on which account the Lord thus expostulates with them, "What hath my beloved to do in my house, seeing she hath wrought lewdness with many? and the holy flesh is passed from thee; when thou doest evil, then thou rejoicest." Jer. xi. 15.

Now the faithful friends of Christ, who hunger and thirst after righteousness, and inwardly breath that his kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven, he teacheth them to be quick of understanding in his fear, and to be very attentive to the means he may appoint for promoting pure righteousness in the earth; and as shame is due to those whose