

I Believe ; I Deny.

The following is given as an illustration of the manner in which the Rev. James C. Richmond sometimes advocated the claims of the Church:—

“He was preaching one evening in one of the public halls of a neighboring city selected because no church was large enough to contain the immense congregation of nearly three thousand people that had gathered to listen to a sermon upon “The Church.” He well knew that not one half were churchmen, and hence he exerted all his powers to defend the distinctive claims of the church and at the same time avoid giving offence to members of other Christian bodies. “My friends,” he began, “why is it that we do not all belong to one church? Why do we have different names, etc.? Let us try to answer the questions. Let us go around to all the churches in this city and try to find out what separates them. Let us begin up in the north part of our city, the stone church, St. John’s Church as we call it. Here stands a benevolent-looking man at the door. ‘My friend, what is this building for?’ ‘This, sir, is a place where the Christian religion is taught.’ ‘But,’ we ask, ‘what do you teach for the Christian religion?’ ‘Go in, sir, and you will learn.’ We enter, listen: ‘I believe in God the Father Almighty Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, etc. etc.’ Well, my friends, that sounds well. Let us come down town and stop at

the plain wooden building. ‘What do you teach here, my friend?’ ‘We teach the Christian religion.’ ‘Why, that is what they teach up at the stone church; why don’t you unite with them?’ ‘Oh, we don’t believe in water baptism, we don’t believe in external ordinances, in a regular ministry, &c.’ ‘Ah, I see; they say up at the old stone church. ‘I believe.’ You say, ‘I don’t believe.’ Let us come down town and stop at the big church with the high steeple. ‘My friend, what is this great building for; what do you do in here?’ ‘We teach the Christian religion.’ ‘Why that is what they do up at the old stone church. Why don’t you go up there and unite with them?’ ‘Oh, we don’t believe in infant baptism; we don’t believe that any baptism is valid except by immersion.’ ‘Ah, I see! They say up there, ‘I believe,’ but you say, ‘I don’t believe.’ We come to the next church. ‘What do you here, my friend?’ ‘We teach the Christian religion.’ ‘Why don’t you go up there to the old stone church?’ that is what they do up there.’ ‘Oh, we don’t believe in the Divinity of Christ.’ ‘Ah, I see; they say, ‘I believe,’ you say, ‘I don’t believe.’ So he passed from church to church and summed up by saying, “The difference between the church and other Christian bodies is only this: the Church says, I believe; the others say, I deny. Every denomination of Christians is founded upon the denial of some one or more articles of belief which the Church of Christ has always held and valued.