

# THE CHRISTIAN BANNER.

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God,"  
"This is love, that we walk after his commandments."

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## OUR NEW VOLUME.

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

A reformer never rests. He has no opportunity, no time, nor is he inclined, to repose. The world is his field—good and evil are before him—and so long as he can contribute his mite to encourage the right and lessen the wrong, he has neither the license nor the will to cease labouring. Life is too short, sin is too awful, truth and holiness too sacred and precious to the true-hearted advocate of reformation to prefer ease and leisure to the hard and up-hill work always connected with moral and religious amendment.

Our fellow-men groan, being burdened, with accumulated error. How much there is to be done!—how much for others! how much for ourselves! 'We know nothing as we ought to know,' and yet our knowledge is far in advance of our piety and zeal. To talk about reform, to write about it, to theorize, to philosophize, to carp and cavi, to jangle and quarrel, will not and must not and cannot do. This is not reformation. We must go to work. We must enter the King's vineyard and begin dressing in earnest—for our own sake, for others' sake, and for the truth's sake. Of necessity the pruning-hook must be used; but we must pluck and plant as the Lord's workmen, and in the love and power of the gospel. The Master and his model must be before us. His humility must clothe us—his spirit guide and imbue us, while engaged in his name and cause.

One year has gone, another has come. The year 1852 will never come again. If we all live to be Methuselahs in age, none of us will ever again see the current year after its days, weeks, and months are numbered. This is truly, with all of us, the "year of grace." We must then work while it is to-day. We know nothing of to-morrow. Present time only is ours. To be idle is to die—to be active is to live. The Master's eye is upon us. God is not mocked. Our pur-