

T·H·E·

# 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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## PREACHERS—PEOPLE.

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Our next question is, How shall preachers deport themselves in their labours among their brethren and all whom they teach?

We read of no apostle, preacher, or teacher in the Christian oracles who aimed principally to let the people see how admirably he could please them. Neither do we find any one pursuing the very opposite course—speaking as by steam-power—determined to show all men his great boldness and independence. Nor will it be easy to point to a primitive preacher, whose evident desire was to be regarded "a smart man." These three traits are doubtless of modern manifestation. And, except in one instance, we look in vain for anything like the usurper's power or the influence of lordship among the preaching primitives. Demetrius built himself up and reached for power, even above the Apostles; and hence he could "prate against" them with a usurper's tongue. The meek and lovely John took his case specially in hand, and in due course exposed his "evil deeds."

May we conclude, then, that a preacher should guard against these four things—that of being a man-pleaser; that of priding himself upon his personal independence; that of angling and catering for the reputation of a great preacher; and that of claiming to himself large authority, and clothing himself with sanctified and awful dignity.

It is to be regretted that every preacher does not get his mental eye, or his eye of faith upon the Lord of Life, as he ministered to humanity before his crucifixion. Can any one think of Jesus, while he tabernacled among men, turning away from a man because he was rude or unpolished, or that he spurned him because he was poor, or despised him because he did not move in a high enough circle, or did not dress to suit him? Or can the most fastidious imagine for a moment, that the Saviour would pay great attention to a charge brought against "a rich brother," and no attention at all to the difficulties of a poor one? Or will any preacher cast a glance at the