

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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CIRCULAR LETTER OF THE GRAND RIVER ASSOCIATION.

This document, kindly sent to our office, we had almost forgotten. It has lain among a pile of unreviewed papers and pamphlets for months. But we must let it speak and speak of it though at a late day; for neither our Baptist brethren nor the Disciples will be one iota the worse by reason of comparing each other's views in reference to the general scope of this denominational epistle.

Beyond the fact that this Letter is honored by an Association of over two thousand Baptists, or that it utters the mind of some twenty or thirty thousand Baptists in Canada, there is nothing in or about it claiming particular attention. The writer—Mr. E. Clarke of St George—has given us neither literature nor theology, neither theory nor practice very attractive or important.

His first paragraph is clear and pointed:

In this epistle we ask your attention to the subject of 'The Unity of the Spirit.' And as there is, at the present time, much said about "Union" and "Unity;" "Spirit" and "Spirits," it may not be amiss for us to define, what Spirit it is, the unity of which we are about to speak; and especially as we are commanded, to try the Spirits "knowing many false prophets have gone out into the world," 1 John.

All this is true, and the following also:

The attributes and actions of a person, are ascribed to the Holy Ghost. Let us simply refer to a few of them, as they are too conclusive to need many comments. The Spirit is said to speak. "He shall not speak of himself," John xvi 13. "Then the Spirit said to Peter," Acts x 19. "The Spirit said to Philip," Acts. viii. 29. *To know*, 1st Cor ii, 10 11. "The Spirit searcheth all things, even the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man save the Spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no one but the Spirit of God."

Quite an effort is then made to prove what few have the hardihood to deny, that the Spirit is more than mere power or a mere attribute, concluding with this sentence,—“That the Holy Ghost is not an attribute of God, nor the power of God, is proved by the language of Peter.