

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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THE "AWFUL VIEWS" OF THE DISCIPLES.

EPISTLES TO CANDID READERS.

NO. II.

To the Inhabitants of Hillier and all Neighbors :

It is a singular but interesting fact in the history of the past that all religious reformers—all who have lifted their voice against existing ecclesiastic traditions—have been branded as infidel or intolerably heretical.

The Divine Reformer, the Lord from heaven, was not an exception. The popular ministers of Jerusalem condemned Jesus because he taught what was contrary to their customs, accusing him of 'many things' and among the rest that he was a perverter of the nation and a blasphemer. Disloyalty and blasphemy were the chief charges against him ; and although Judge Pilate examined him touching the accusations and found him innocent, yet the pious ministers compelled the Judge to pronounce sentence of death upon him. The Roman Judge declares that he finds 'no fault in him,' but the zealous Rabbis of the times press the Judge to condemn one whom he pronounces innocent. Was ever such a sentence given!—the Judge pronouncing sentence and at the very moment declaring 'I find no fault in him.' But it is the devout ministers who compel this judgment. They are intensely offended at the Divine Reformer and he must be condemned.

The heroic Paul, an inspired reformer, sent from the presence of the Lord Jesus to turn the Gentiles from the power of Satan to God, was