

they would doubt your orthodoxy, and most likely charge you with denying some of the "essential doctrines of grace!"

Ask the Methodist, if he will give up his name for christian union! He will say No: "*I thank God that I am a Methodist.*" And the very thought of throwing away the honoured name of Wesley, and never again to be called *Wesleyans*, would be considered by that large, popular, and influential body of professors, a public abjuration of their own and the religion of their fathers! Ask them to give up all their unscriptural phrases and forms, and they would on taking a survey of them cry out, "You have taken away my gods, and what have I more!" What would they do without their "faith alone" doctrine, that is so "good and wholesome," and so "very full of comfort?" What would they do without infant rantism, and class meetings? The whole system would be renounced were they to listen to the words of truth and reason uttered by their "venerable founder." Indeed, the more we study the history of Mr. Wesley, the more we are impressed with the truth of a remark often made to influential members of that body, namely, that our faith and practice more nearly resemble Mr. Wesley's teaching than that of those who glory in the name *Wesleyan*.

Long before we ever saw Mr. Wesley's notes on the New Testament, we contended that the only rational ground of Christian union was a renunciation of *party names, unscriptural phrases and forms*. And the affirmative conditions of union ought not to be forgotten; they are worthy a place in every heart: would they were written in letters of light, where they might be read by the whole universe. Read them again: "*Would to God—that we might all agree to sit down together as humble, loving disciples, at the feet of our common Master, to hear his words, to imbibe his spirit, and to transcribe his life in our own.*" It sounds better every time it is repeated. Were we to start a paper exclusively for the advocacy of Christian union, that would be a part of our motto. We would place first the words of our adorable Redeemer, "I pray not for these [Apostles] only, but for them who shall believe on me through their word—that they may be one." Then we would hear Paul, "Receive ye one another as Christ hath received us, to the glory of God." And then Mr. Wesley's words would show distinctly how all professors could honorably rid themselves of all false doctrines and practices, and how like kindred drops they all might mingle into one holy brotherhood.

But we would not neglect the other honourable members of the Evangelical family. Go then, reader, to the Congregationalist and to the Presbyterian, and ask them if they will relinquish their unscriptural names, phrases and forms: we do not mean those names, phrases and forms which you may deem unscriptural, but those for which *they* themselves acknowledge they have not a "thus saith the Lord"—and what will they reply? To the moles and the bats be your Evangelical union if to promote it I must give up the venerated name "Presbyterian:" for under this our fathers fought and were victorious! And the Independent would say, "My name is hallowed by a thousand associations of the noble deeds and heroic sufferings of my worthy Puritan ancestors. I would like to see the Evangelical professors united, but this price is too high, this sacrifice would be too great. Were we to renounce our dis-