

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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CLOSE COMMUNION TOPPLING.

From the Gospel Tribune.

So the Rev. J. R. Graves, editor of the Tennessee Baptist, seems to think. In a recent number of his journal he says:—

"That a scheme is being plotted, and the elements at work, to *open communionize* the Baptist denomination in America, we have had reason to fear; that a large body of Northern Baptists are upon the verge of the plunge into open communion at the table, as well as in baptism, and in the pulpit, we have long been satisfied; and that there are men in the South ready to second the move cannot be questioned—men whose published sentiments are even now preparing the way before the denomination."

"*I lotted!*" indeed friend Graves, that is just the way that Popery spoke of old; everything done and said against it, was adjudged *plotting*, and so now, when thousands upon thousands of your own brethren, as well entitled to the right of following their honest convictions as yourself, approach the conclusions reached by the Jesses, Bunyans, Halls and Carsons of the old world, and are preparing to break from their necks the galling yoke of close communion, these brethren must be reproachfully spoken of by you as *plotting!* Fie! Fie! Graves. What is close communion, that action taken against it must be characterized as plotting? Is it worthy of this mode of defence? Is it self-evidently holy, righteous and good? Are the decrees of close Baptist churches and associations, enforcing it upon the faithful under pains and penalties, to be regarded as *infallible* decrees? It will not do, friend Graves;