

ments that they are mere ceremonies—that there is neither hurt nor good in obeying or disobeying them. A certain young man once came to the Saviour, and asked him which was the *greatest* commandment, as though there were some small commandments. People now talk about the essentials and non-essentials, as though God commanded some things that are not essential. Whatever is commanded in the word of God, is a *great command*, because it comes from *great authority*.

In the Acts of apostles, we see what the apostles commanded—what sinners should do to obtain remission of sins. In the Epistles, we see what the same apostles, having the same authority, commanded the saints to do to continue steadfast in the faith, and to walk circumspect before the world.

Yours in the blessed hope, BENJ. SUMMY.

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#### INTELLIGENCE FROM ABROAD.

The subjoined letter, although relating to affairs afar off, will doubtless be perused with attention and interest. We have only leisure to offer a word of explanation. While among the brethren in Tully, a few weeks since, we were solicited to say where an evangelist could be found, and we spoke favourably of obtaining the esteemed brother who writes the following. Shortly after, we despatched a letter to head quarters to propitiate matters as far as possible with our brother who here responds:—

*Canfield, O., April 16th, 1849.*

DEAR BROTHER OLIPHANT:—I received a letter from you dated the 6th, and one from brother Chase, of Tully, dated the 7th of April, and this is intended as an answer to both. Since you last heard from me I have located in this place, and am engaged to labor the ensuing year for the congregation here, and at Green, and consequently am not at liberty to reciprocate the kind invitation of the brethren in Tully.

The above, perhaps, would be a sufficient answer to yours and that of brother Chase, but it does not satisfy me. New York is my own, my native state—and an invitation of this kind, coming as it does not far from the scenes of my childhood, where many years were spent in childish innocence and youthful delights, wakes up remembrances of those sunny days, to the joys of which I have no desire to be a stranger, and begets in me a wish that I was prepared to respond in the affirmative. It is with feelings of the deepest interest that I have watched the slow and steady progress of the reformation in the old Empire State, and for years I have promised myself a visit to the dear brethren there, and have often thought I would like to labor in that part of the Lord's great harvest; but as yet these promises and desires have not been realized.