

THE  
CHRISTIAN BANNER.

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"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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OVERTURES FOR CHRISTIAN UNION.

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[The subjoined is a sample of a series of articles from the pen of a PRESBYTER of the Episcopal Church. We serve it to our readers, not because we approve of all that the writer affirms, but to show that the subject of Union is attracting attention in 'high places.' We are, on the whole, encouraged by such indications:—D. O.]

Let me say, that two propositions lie at the foundation of Christian union. The first is,—that for any permanent gospel union, that will avail aught before God or man, we must aim to have such a fellowship in the church as will make us fully and cordially recognize each other, in doctrine, discipline, mode of worship, ministry, and sacraments; do away distinctive names, and render us one in visible as well as spiritual union and communion.

The second proposition is, that to gain such union, Christians must be ready to sacrifice, if need be, all that is not held as a matter of conscience toward God.

The first of these is so evident that it needs little discussion. If we are only to have a courteous recognition of each other; an alliance offensive and defensive against some common foe: an occasional meeting on some common platform; we may about as well stand where we are, for this would not come up to the gospel requirement, nor satisfy God or man, nor draw down the divine blessing that we need. Whether Christian union would demand an entire obliteration of all that is distinctive, or how far, is another question; but certainly it would require a full recognition and fellowship, so that ministers could inter-