

It is a great mistake to suppose that the Christian should possess immutability. This is to imagine either that he has attained perfection, or that he has ceased to advance towards it. God is infinitely perfect; he is therefore unchangeable; "without variableness or shadow of turning".—But man, who is so imperfect can be immutable only while perfection is his standard; and the religionist who boasts of being always the same, glories in a human model.

Seriousness consists in the matter of what is spoken, the manner of speaking, in the dignity of behavior, and in weighty, not trifling actions. Some are serious by nature, some by policy, and for selfish motives; and some by grace, and from a sense of duty.

We are accustomed to regard the purification of the heart as the greatest of all things in religion. If, then, this be accomplished without faith, of what essential use is faith afterwards! If the greatest of all events is achieved without it, why may not the effects of that change be accomplished without it? Why do we preach the gospel to convert men, if, before they believe the gospel, and without the gospel, men are renewed and regenerated by the direct and immediate influence of God's Spirit?

NOTICE OF A DISCUSSION.

[From the *Picton Sun*.]

Picton, 26th Dec. 1845.

Mr. Editor:

My Dear Sir,—Although not one of your regular correspondents, and although not happily instructed in the pleasing mystery of giving and receiving news, I am induced on this occasion to forward you a brief letter containing an item of intelligence, probably both new and interesting to the public.

According to previous agreement and arrangement, a debate of two days' continuance, designed to elaborate certain propositions relative to future happiness and misery, will take place at the brick school house, Picton, between the Rev. Mr. Leavitt and Mr. D. Oliphant, to commence on the first Tuesday in the New Year, being the 6th day of January '46, at 2 o'clock A. M.

An attendance of the inhabitants of Picton and its vicinity is respectfully requested. As the contending parties are not desirous of having "these things done in a corner," it is hoped we shall have the audience of the intelligent community.

Respectfully yours,

D. OLIPHANT.

The above notice was the occasion of congregating on the day