

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.—*Peter.* On this Rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.—*The Lord Messiah.*

## NEGLECT OF A CHRISTIAN DUTY.

BROTHER EATON—There appears to be a part of the primitive order of Christian duty lying dormant in Apostolic ruins, and not as yet fully comprehended by the people who claim the New Testament for their articles of Faith, and Messiah for their Lord and leader. The thing to which I allude is the primitive order of supporting and spreading the primitive gospel. We find it first, in the germ, clearly elicited in these words of the Messiah, "Occupy till I come" (Luke xix. 13, Matt. xxv. 14): from which parable it appears that the Lord Jesus has committed to his servants, the disciples (his goods)—the whole Gospel economy, with this express command, "Occupy till I come;" and if a Paul must say "who is sufficient for these things," how much more should we feel our infirmity in executing a trust so fraught with the weal or woe of all mankind. But, returning to our subject, we find this Paul disciplining the Churches, like so many regiments of the soldiers of the Cross, in this primitive order, while he admonishes them thus, "Holding forth the word of life;" and again enjoins on the Corinthians to imitate the churches of Macedonia in their liberality, who had "out of much affliction and deep poverty," "given themselves first unto the Lord and then unto the Apostles by the will of God." Here we have a full development of the thing alluded to above, that the disciples each one, as in proof of their sincerity, co-operated with the apostles—gave themselves unto the apostles by the will of God. If, therefore, it was his will that the Macedonians should give themselves to the apostles, in order to carry out the principles of order; if Titus was admonished to finish or perfect this grace in the Corinthians, as a proof of their professed subjection to the Gospel of Christ (2 Cor. ix. 13); and if the contribution of the Philippians (iv. 17, 18) was a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing unto God—then it is clearly elicited to be the duty of all disciples, even at this present time, to give themselves unto the apostles by the will of God. But some may inquire, how can we give ourselves unto the apostles by the will of God as in primitive times, seeing that the apostles have slept in death! I answer by devoting ourselves to the same service, which the