

CO-OPERATIVE EFFORTS, No. I.

Brighton, C. W., 5th Jan., 1857.

MY CHRISTIAN BROTHER LOOS:—Duly your communication relative to the Cincinnati “missionary society” arrived at Brighton. I desire to be, as you are aware, zealously interested and unceasingly active in christian missions; and will, in some form, lay the claims of the “society” at Cincinnati before the friends who read the Christian Banner.

But, my good brother, suffer me to express with emphatic frankness my sincere conviction that all such missionary societies as the one which is organized in your city by the disciples are far from being according to the pattern of heavenly things exhibited in the statutes of our only Lawgiver. And why it is, brother Loos, that faithful and valiant heroes for the truth of God who have in times past armed themselves with the armor of heaven against the innovations and institutions of wise and pious men, do now apparently approve, adopt, and prosecute what they formerly denounced, is a mystery to more than the writer. Or are the elements of a “missionary society” shaped and fashioned by disciples so much superior to the frame work of a Presbyterian or Congregational “missionary society,” that the one is scriptural and the other unscriptural? Or has the past efforts of the brethren against these partly earthly and partly heavenly institutions been found unwarranted by the only correct test—the Creed of Christ?—and hence are the chief brethren who have pled for reform discovering their mistake and retracing their steps?

I know, my zealous brother, the short-metre response to all this. It is affirmed that missionary societies are expedient. That the *object* is right: therefore it is both lawful and expedient to exercise the wisdom of the brotherhood in making choice of means to accomplish a scriptural object—just as though it was according to the orthodoxy of God’s Book for us to find out the will of Christ relative to objects, and then that he permitted us to follow our own weak or strong wisdom in carrying out these objects. O my brother, have we not too much reason to be assured that a host of strong men are marshalled under Captain Expediency—an Ecclesiastic Chief of immense power and untold mischief; and can any one, saving the Occupant of the Eternal Throne who sees at once the beginning and the end, tell where this Captain will eventually lead his host? This Mr. Expediency is a most flattering, insinuating, and successful General, wearing more laurels and showing a greater store of