

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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

PATRONS of the Christian, Friends and Brethren, we wish you all a happy New-Year! A *happy* year it *may be* to you all. Yes! you may spend it in the enjoyment of a greater amount of real happiness than any former year. "If the will of the Lord be so," say you. Well, it is the will of the Lord that all his creatures should be partakers of uninterrupted spiritual joy. He commands all men every where to repent; and to the disciples Paul once said, "Rejoice evermore;" disciples, too, who were encircled with tenfold greater difficulties than any which surround Christians at the present time. "He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life," said the Savior of the world.

A first principle in christian philosophy is, that no man can desire that which does not exist. To say that man possesses desires for that which is not, is to adopt one of the first principles of Atheism. The Almighty architect first made provision for animated nature, and then brought it into existence. That which was necessary for the gratification of our appetites first, and then man adapted to the state in which he was to exist. Atheism, on the other hand, would induce us to think that the stream has arisen above its fountain; that nature has produced beings superior to herself—beings which long after immortality and never ending happiness, beings, who after they have drunk every cup of nature to its dregs, desire more; they long for life and happiness; they are dissatisfied with the past and the present: and the future is to them dismal night! This is thy God, O Infidelity!

This boasted system is called *reason*. Then would I remain one of the superstitious and unreasonable creatures who cheat themselves with the visions of immortality. There certainly is happiness in the anticipation, and should I be mistaken there will be no person to laugh at my disappointment.

We have said that man cannot possess desires for that which does not exist. Now for the proof. We desire nothing in the kingdom of nature that the Lord has not provided. Reader, turn your thoughts inward; call to your aid all of your knowledge and experience; then