

T H E

CHRISTIAN BANNER.

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God."
"This is love, that we walk after his commandments."

VOL. VI.

COBOURG, NOVEMBER, 1852.

NO. 11.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE SABBATH AND THE LAW.

FRIEND OLIPHANT:—I am one of that kind of folk who want to have the why and the wherefore for every thing that I am required to have faith in ; also one that wishes to avail myself of all the opportunities that come in my way of obtaining Bible knowledge ; and believing that you may be able to assist in my present inquiry, or at least to point out where I go astray, I will therefore inform you that I was brought up in the Presbyterian faith, having great regard for the Sabbath day and the shorter catechism. Amongst my religious acquaintances there were Baptists and those of your way of thinking. The observance of the Sabbath occasionally formed part of our conversation. I objected that Baptists do not keep the Sabbath so strict as the Presbyterians do. In reply I was told that Christians are not required to keep the Jews' Sabbath and scripture was pointed out as authority for this, at the same time I was told that Christians are not under the law but under grace. All this was somewhat new to me, but having a leaning towards the Baptists or rather to your way of thinking in some things, it did not require much persuasion to make me go in with all that was advanced, especially as the Sabbath was rather a disagreeable day to me ; and for this reason I could never work my feelings up to that pitch that I believed to be indispensable in the right observance of the Sabbath according to the catechism. But after receiving this new light, my mind was more at ease, and things went on smoothly ; but some time ago there was something like a controversy between some of your people on the subject of the Sabbath and the Law, and upon looking over their communications I became somewhat afraid that my new creed was rather hastily adopted. But having heard some of the Disciple preachers teach the necessity of having faith in the gospel upon our knowledge, and that to have correct faith we must first have correct knowledge, I resolved to examine the scriptures as to these questions that my faith in them might rest upon my own knowledge. I have also heard it taught that it was necessary for those who intended to run in the Christian race, that if they desire to obtain the prize, they must begin to run at the starting post and not at any intermediate distance from it. So I also resolved in my inquiries to begin at the beginning.