

# The Monthly Advocate.

VOL. I.

OCTOBER, 1880.

No. 6.

## CHRISTIAN UNION AND THE BOOK OF PSALMS.

It would be utterly impossible to overestimate the importance of a thorough agreement amongst the people of God, in all matters of faith and practice. Their own personal edification and comfort, their influence in conquering the prejudices of the enemies of the truth, and the relation that they sustain to each other, as members of the same household of faith, all require that there should be no divisions among them but that they should walk "according to the same rule and mind the same things." The divided state of the Church of God, creating oftentimes alienation, bitterness, and strife, amongst the members of the mystical body of Christ, is a great moral evil. It is an unsightly blotch on the fair face of Christianity—dishonouring to the Spirit who is a Spirit of unity—detrimental to the growth and comfort of Christians—marring the communion of saints, and hindering the progress of the Gospel throughout the world.

All Christians are one *essentially*. They are all one *flock*, of which the Redeemer is the Shepherd—one *family*, of which He is the Father—one *building*, of which He is the Foundation, and the Chief Corner Stone—one *bread*, as they are all partakers of that one Bread. Members of Christ, they are members one of another. Redeemed by the same blood—justified by the same righteousness—quickenened, renewed, and sanctified by the same Spirit—eating the same spiritual meat, and drinking the same spiritual drink—engaged in the same service, that of Him who purchased them with His blood, and journeying to the same glorious inheritance beyond the skies; *they are all one in Christ Jesus*. Existing divisions in the Church are, therefore, wholly incongruous with her essential unity. Differences of sentiment, and their usual concomitant, alienation of affection, should have no place amongst the redeemed family of Heaven. Being one *essentially* the people of God ought to be one *visibly*: "endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace," and "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

The Redeemer's intercessory prayer recorded in the seventeenth Chapter of John is wonderfully expressive of the *nature* and *importance* of true Christian union. "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." How *thorough* is the unity of sentiment between the Father and the Son! In their basis of union there is no open question. There is absolute unanimity on all points. Such is the model of Christian union. That they all may be one; *as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee*. Christianity altogether repudiates any divergence of creed amongst the people of God, in regard to the