

THE CHRISTIAN BANNER.

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

VOL. VIII.

COBOURG, JANUARY, 1854.

NO. 1

NEW YEAR'S GIFT FOR EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY FOUR. ADDRESS TO EACH PROFESSOR IN CANADA.

Intelligent professor: are you by religious profession a Presbyterian? Are you a Baptist? Are you a Congregationalist? Are you a Wesleyan or Episcopal Methodist? or do you choose to be called by some other name? Whatever be your profession, will you allow a friend, with a friendly design, to ask you four short questions:

First. Does not the Lord our Saviour teach that all his friends should be united? When he prayed as no one ever did either before or since, which prayer is recorded in John xvii, his words were and are, "I pray . . . for all who shall believe on me . . . that they may all be one; as thou, Father, art in me and I in thee." Ponder, dear reader, these neglected but solemn words from the lips of the Author of Eternal Life.

Second. Can you satisfy yourself that it is honouring to the Redeemer to be known by a name or to accept of a name, not authorized by his divine oracles? Jesus is worthy of "all honour." Paul, though an apostle, would not permit any one to take even his name and make it a Christian badge. Examine, courteous reading friend, the first chapter of 1st. Corinthians from the 10th to the 13th. verse, also chapter third, 4th verse, and then candidly decide whether an inspired ambassador of Christ will uphold you in receiving or using your present religious title. The fondness for the various names of our times is a sure indication of religious disease: because if the Lord's teaching in all things was received, and therefore every one was taught by Christ, all would equally love to be called by that name or those names which the Great Master has approved. The evil is not so much in the names themselves, but each name indicates some doctrine or practice contrary to the wholesome authority of the Lord, resulting in keeping up division and effectually preventing union.

Third. What are you attempting to do in order to discourage division and promote union? While it is true that some have very great influence, and are therefore very largely responsible, it is nevertheless true that every man is personally accountable to the Lord for what influence he possesses, and hence, are you, respected sir, as a professed friend of Jesus, acting in behalf of a restoration of religious union according to the power that the Lord has given you? If the whole world were divisionists, and if all men beside yourself were on