

THE CHRISTIAN BANNER.

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

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THE PRESENT YEAR-OF GRACE.

'Go on,' say warm hearted friends of the Christian Banner, 'Go on, and we will join with you in meeting charges.' This is the spirit of zealous letter writers who have communicated with us at the close of the Old and the opening of the New year. And we have the courage to respond, 'Yes, brethren, we will labor with you, the Lord giving strength, and now give you the twelfth part as a tangible installment of another volume.'

Yet, as every thinking reader is aware, it requires a stout heart to push through the pecuniary waves of the times. These indeed are fearful days for many a strong man. The world on both sides of the Atlantic is bending beneath an immense pressure—War, Scarcity, and Embarrassment are working out their problems in society, not, for the time present, joyously but grievously. Hard by the shores of the far-distant Luxine, not a few lose home, fortune, and life in one act of the drama, without preface or preparation—on the shores of the Atlantic in our own western world full many are made bankrupt, homeless, and hopeless by the rude touch of monetary stringency.

But the Lord reigns and heaven is unchanged. Faith falters not and christianity deceives not. The Bible is still a sure map and a safe chart. The path of the Christian pilgrim is yet illuminated by the Divine presence; and the hand of support, the voice of good cheer, the rich bounty from exhaustless stores, and the faithful promise of abundant reward, fail not—cannot fail. We therefore flag not, but "in the name of the Lord raise our banner," and go forth as usual to follow the footsteps of Prince Immanuel.

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