

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. X.

COBOURG AND BRIGHTON, MARCH, 1856.

NO. 3.

WALTER SCOTT ON UNION.

[Reader, look over these pages on the union of Christians, by Walter Scott, of Cincinnati, and if you have one objection to the language or the sentiment, let us hear from you.—D. O.]

In our efforts for Union we must not neglect the lights and aids of history. It is our duty to watch the ever-moving finger of Providence as it passes over the dial of human society, and mark its indications of duty. For the moral government of the world, as well as the catastrophes of nature and the reformations of religion, concurs with our religious necessities, and meets them with a voice of its own. History tells us what to do, and what not to do. When the ancients strayed, the command was, to seek for "the old paths, and walk in them." This is our duty. The history of Apostolic Christianity is in the Scriptures. When we open the holy book, therefore, it is all before us. In other volumes, if we search for its history, all is dark, mysterious, and unlovely; but from the pages of the holy oracles it looks forth with bright and beaming eyes, forever young, forever fair: the word of the Lord is immortal and eternal.

What then was the nature of the union of the Apostolic Church? This question is easily answered. These Churches being everywhere *constitutionally* the same, for the apostle says he acted as a wise master builder in this matter, and taught the same things in every church, the members passed from one organization to another by letters of introduction and commendation, and when Churches co-operated it was by districts, and not by parties, as in Protestantism, or by the Pope, as in
