

periment, he could relate a suitable experience, then he was admitted as a member of the church. It thus required a full half year to make a member of this church, while a member of the church of Christ was made by Peter or Paul "the same day" that the gospel was preached to him.

The contrast may be still more strikingly perceived by considering the means by which the New Testament converts and the converts of "experimental religion" were made. Many prayers, conflicts, and spiritual wrestlings are embraced in the one case; but according to the inspired direction, there is the simple knowledge and simple confession that Jesus is Christ.

I am, then, a believer and an unbeliever in experimental religion. The term indeed is rejected, because anti-scriptural; but all that is good in the thing itself,—all that refers to religion being heartily felt, constantly enjoyed, personally applied, and steadfastly honored by a holy life, I cherish with all my heart, and desire to live and die in this faith.

Yours,

D. OLIPHANT.

DISCUSSION.

INFLUENCE OF THE SPIRIT.

To the Editor of the Witness of Truth.

DEAR SIR:—The marked attention paid to my former letter, and the readiness you express to examine the subject I proposed for a candid investigation, and the candid manner in which you propose to do it, and not the apparent flattery (by which I trust I am not to be influenced) that appears in your notice of the proposed discussion, leads me cheerfully, though candidly, with a sincere desire for the truth, to resume my pen. And first, agreeably to your request, I state the number of letters to be four on each side, the fourth of mine to be a review of your arguments in opposition to my own. I shall therefore in the meantime attend to my own arguments.

The propositions for discussion, are, first the Spirit and next its influence upon the heart of man, in order to his conversion to, and acceptance with, God.

First, the Holy Spirit. What is it? It is the power of God. *Gen.* 1: 2: "The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Here it appears the power of God in the creation, preparing blind chaos for the reception of light. "It moved upon the face of the waters," after which God said, "Let there be light, and there was light." It is the