

THE  
**CHRISTIAN RECORDER.**

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ON RELIGIOUS CONVERSATION.

**H**E who looks abroad at the great exertions now making by Christians of all denominations, to spread the light of the Gospel through the world, is apt to congratulate himself on the blessing which he enjoys in coming into existence during a period so propitious to the knowledge and practice of Holiness. But on a more serious and rigid examination, he will be disturbed with fears least there be more of public appearance than of Christian humility in all these endeavours. And his fears will rather gain strength than be diminished, when he considers the low state of spiritual conversation. It is true, he frequently hears in company the merits of public institutions for religious enlargement affectionately discussed, their advantages contrasted, and the various ways by which they contribute to the same end ably set forth, but how seldom does the conversation take a more particular turn and descend to our individual situations? It cannot be said by any Christian, that he has no interest in such conversation, nor can he for a moment imagine that such friendly communications are of no use, but the general opinion is against introducing them, and he conforms himself accordingly. It is this that suggests the melancholy suspicion, that though the number of religious professors be great, the number of real Christians is small, for the Prophet informs us, "That they who feared the Lord spoke often one to another." It was their delight to speak of the goodness of God, to magnify his holy name, to communicate to each other the graces and favours