

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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A FEW FIRST WORDS.

When preparing the first sentences, of the first page, of the first issue of this monthly work, our hand inscribed and our heart dictated as follows :

'Of one thing we are assured. A severer ordeal does not await us than that through which others have passed in testifying the same things. In no age of the world has the Lord's cause been popular : among no people have the people of God, vouching for the truth, been well received. Persecution has been their portion : martyrs their companions and comforters. Abel was slain ; Joseph was enslaved ; Moses was slandered and withstood ; Jeremiah was imprisoned ; Jesus was crucified ; Paul, Peter, and James were martyred—and since these illustrious examples, a host of heavenly witnesses have also been favored with the privilege of being doomed to the like noble suffering. Human nature is no better now than anciently ; and therefore we anticipate nothing better as our living inheritance than what is recorded in the history of the faithful since the world began.'

Such was the spirit with which we began laboring through the press at the close of 1845 ; and although we had only seen twenty-four birth days, we do to-day heartily bless the Gracious Master that we were enabled to begin our labors with such views and anticipations. Certainly we have not been disappointed : for in all our struggles it has been remembered that others have passed through scenes and sufferings equally severe with no better present reward, and it has also been