

ANOTHER EPISTLE.

The following letter should have appeared at an earlier date. The omission was not intentional but accidental. It speaks for itself:—

— 20th Nov. 1845.

Bro. Oliphant,

Your "Witness" made its appearance here about two weeks ago, since when it has been placed in the hands of many for examination, approval, or condemnation. Some approve—few condemn. Thirty-four Subscribers have been obtained in this vicinity. This, for a beginning, is as favorable as the Witness' most sanguine friends could have expected, and yet 'tis far short of what they wish.

A medium being now opened through which the Disciples' views may be fully and correctly known—'tis desirable that all should have access thereto, and especially such as heretofore may have joined against them in the cry of *heresy, heresy*. No longer can such, without censure, without guilt, join in the propagation of the one hundred and one stories, about the Disciples having no foundation in truth—To all such I would say, listen to the "Witness," and if it testify not according to the *living oracles*, use its pages in pointing out its errors, agreeably to the invitation given on page 22; language is there used which shows the "Witness" treads on lofty ground, such as heretofore has been untrodden by any religious periodical in this country. Hark what it says:—"And to all who may have scruples and conscientious objections against the views and practices we endeavor to advocate, it is courteously intimated, our pages are open,—free to the use of any one who objects respectfully. We rather court than avoid scrutiny." 'Tis hoped the intelligent and conscientious among those who differ, will accept the invitation. The language quoted bespeaks great confidence in the views entertained, and evinces a magnanimity of mind comporting with the Christian profession; this however is only what we should expect from all, who while they claim to be heard, are also willing to hear.

Brother Oliphant, on the 9th page, you have marked out a high and honorable path—you desire not to be regarded as a sect, a party, nor as advocating the interests of a party, but as endeavoring to concentrate efforts to bring all into the enjoyment of the one *God and Father* of all. This, indeed, is a lofty position, one, it is hoped, you may maintain in such a manner that you may thus be considered. So long as you do so, you will have the sympathies of all good men; but to maintain that position—as the eagle soars above the clouds, inhaling the purest air, only stoops to earth by dire necessity—so you in your editorial career should tread so high and heavenly that your course will lie above the lofty peaks of the highest mountains of partyism, and only touch on earth because the tabernacle which you inhabit is there.

I am yours, in hope, —

CHAPTER OF EXTRACTS.

To obey any law, is to enjoy the blessings secured by that law. To transgress it, is to incur its penalties.