

The Scriptural Test, &c.

TEXT.—“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.”—*Romans* viii. 9.

THESE are most solemn and alarming words, and expressly appropriate for making a deep and abiding impression on every individual professing Christianity, and attending on its ministrations.—Most especially should they lead every member of a Christian Church to close and prayerful examination of heart and life, to ascertain whether he does indeed possess the presence and influence of that divine spirit, through whose gracious and abiding influence alone, can he be said to belong to Christ, or in other words be a real Christian. During the several ages of Christianity, its profession has, unhappily, taken numerous divisional forms of sects and societies, bearing different names, and varying from each other, more or less, on certain points and particulars. Some of these differences relate to doctrines; some to the organization of Churches and their method of government; some to the modes of celebrating ordinances; others as to ceremonies and observances in conducting public worship; others as to regulations and discipline regarding their members; and on various other points. Now, the Divine Omniscient Being, who has given the words of the text; who knows all things, and the end of all of them from the beginning, knew that all these differences and variations would occur, but He has made no allusion to them, either in the text or context. He has, in effect, declared, as to any and every age, that whatever a person's profession of Christianity may be, as to doctrines, church fellowship, or any of the other particulars just mentioned, if he have not “the spirit of Christ,” he does not belong to him, and consequently is not a Christian. Now, the scripture most emphatically declares “that there is no salvation in any