

gives us "precept upon precept," something on the Christian duty of refraining from entering the battle-field might be edifying. We have opened the way. Our work has been to show the expediency of being legally recognized by the "heads of department" according to the principles we have long been convinced of and firmly held.

Since the above was written, the following has come to hand, which is cheerfully inserted :

*For the Christian Banner.*

DEAR BROTHER OLIPHANT : In last November's No. of the Christian Banner I find you have proposed two queries to me (page 288.) I am not certain that I understand your intention in proposing these queries, but lest it should be thought that I am afraid of them I have resolved to reply to them. First query, "Did Timothy labour in Ephesus before or after Paul's farewell address," Acts xx. To this I reply that I am not certain what meaning you attach to the word *labour*, but shall suppose at present you mean labouring in word and doctrine. Paul in his first letter to Timothy (who resided at Ephesus at that time, 1 Tim. ii. 3) describes the qualifications of elders and deacons, chap. iii; this seems to be intended to direct Timothy and the church to select the best qualified persons for these offices. From this I understand that the church at Ephesus had no elders at that time. 1 Tim. i. 3 seems to confirm this; for if there had been elders in the church at that time, the charge given to Timothy in the above text would be given to the elders as it was in Acts xx. 31; and as the above church had elders when Paul gave "his farewell address" I conclude Timothy laboured at Ephesus *before* that time. Second query, "What did Timothy do in Ephesus," (I suppose you mean to ask what did he work at.) I reply I cannot tell. The scripture as far as I remember gives no information on this point, and where the scripture is silent it would seem to be unwise to speculate much. You will observe however that this is no proof that Timothy did not work at all. I cannot tell what Paul laboured at when at Ephesus or Thessalonica, but I can tell that he laboured at both places, Acts xx. 31, 35; 1 Thess. iii. 7, 8. At Corinth he laboured at tent-making, Acts xviii. 3, 4.

Thus I have replied to your queries, and I would observe that I am well aware of the popular arguments in support of clergymen's stipends attempted from 1 Tim. iv. 15; 2 Tim. ii. 4. Now if you or any of your readers think that these texts contain anything against what I said in the Christian Banner in the Number for last November, just say so. I am willing to hear what any one has to say, and, if convinced of error, I hope I shall always take pleasure in acknowledging the error. I have no interest even in a pecuniary point of view to hold to error, having never received *even one dollar* for teaching religion; but should my opponent fail to convince me of error, perhaps I may examine my armoury for some weapon of defense, and I am not without hope that I have a rod in pickle for such arguments as I