

may speak of five years from the period of its developement, provided we shall see that future time and provided we deem it of sufficient consequence or can draw a valuable parable from it.

Meantime, friendly brethren and active co-workers, we are calculating upon a busy year in writing and in speaking for "the manifestation of the truth;" and whatever we can accomplish with the sword of the Spirit, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, truth's girdle, feet shod with the gospel, and all supplication and prayer for our fellow men, we hope to accomplish.

D. OLIPHANT.

For the Christian Banner.

CONVERSATIONS ON THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION.

CHRISTIAN UNION.

A.—As I am anxious to hold some conversation on the Christian religion, in order to be better acquainted with that important subject, I embrace the present as a favorable opportunity to propose a number of questions that have recently presented themselves to my mind, in the hope that they may be satisfactorily answered.

B.—It affords me unfeigned pleasure to meet with one desirous of conversing on a subject of such transcendent importance to our interests in time and eternity. The Author of the christian faith has said, "This is life eternal that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." No position on earth is more honorable and safe, than that occupied by Mary, who sat at Jesus' feet and heard his word, Luke 10: 39. I trust that in all our inquiries it will be a settled point to refer to the Great Teacher and his inspired servants, as giving decisive evidence on every subject of investigation.

A.—It is to me a cause of astonishment and deep regret that all who love the Lord Jesus were not so much attached to each other as to make a common cause against an ungodly world, and I think that all intelligent christians pray with our Lord that his people may be one.

B.—All who faithfully study the New Testament will discover the necessity of christian union in order to christian usefulness. In our Lord's prayer to his Father, for the union of his disciples, he states as the natural and certain result, "That the world may believe that thou hast sent me," Jno. 17: 21. The gospel of Christ, when understood