

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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CHARTERS AND CHURCHES.

The following portion of a letter written by a distinguished editor to a learned minister we have thought would be read with interest and edification by the readers of the Christian Banner:—

When a legislature grants a charter to a bank, a borough, or a manufacturing company, it incorporates them into a separate, independent body, with full power to manage their own concerns; and they may appoint and must appoint either directors, a council, or managers, who have full power to make as many by-laws as they please for the government of their body, provided these by-laws are sanctioned by the charter; but the charter itself contains no particular or special laws for their government. It merely erects them into a body known in law, and grants them the privilege of legislation, and full power to enforce their own regulations and by-laws; that is, the same power which the legislature itself possesses.

The following are some of the more prominent objections to your plan of church government:—

1. I object to considering the bible merely as a charter granted by a legislature or civil government, because the bible does more than erect congregations, or constitute religious bodies invested with peculiar privileges. It gives them many laws for their general and particular behavior. It authorizes the existence of congregations, or, as you call them, "corporate bodies," but it does more than any charter ever granted by any legislature ever did. It prescribes to the members in particular every requisite rule of behavior, for their thoughts, words, and actions. In fact it transcends any charter on earth in every res-