

# 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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## THE BASIS OF CHRISTIAN UNION.

From R. Richardson's Pamphlet.

Every one will agree, that the true basis of Christian union is the Christian faith. All the parties assert this, but, unfortunately, each one adds to that faith, or rather substitutes for it, human opinions, and matters of doctrinal knowledge not immediately connected with salvation; and they refuse to receive each other, because they do not happen to agree in these opinions and doctrines, while, at the same time, they may hold a common what really constitutes the Christian faith. This Christian faith is belief in Christ as he is presented in the gospel and it is concisely engrossed in the great proposition, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. No one can comprehend the terms of this proposition, without having before his mind the whole Christian faith in its subject matter. The predicate, "the Son of God" if understood, implies a knowledge of God and a belief in Him. The subject "Jesus Christ" is an expression which can be comprehended only as it involves an acquaintance with the personal history of Jesus of Nazareth, and consequently, of the great facts which constitute the gospel. The whole proposition thus presents to us—Jesus as the Son of God—the Christ or the anointed One whom God has appointed to be our Teacher our Redeemer, and our King; to whose precepts we are to listen; through whose precious blood and intercession we are to obtain forgiveness; by whose word and Spirit we are to be sanctified, and by whose mighty power we are to be rescued from the captivity of the grave.

As in nature, the lofty spreading oak was originally contained in the acorn or rather, in a single cell of that acorn upon which were impressed all the nature and laws of development which distinguish the monarch of the woods, so it has pleased God to wrap up, as it were, in a single proposition, that vast remedial system, which may overspread and shelter, in its full development the whole assembled family of man. In it is presented the simple word, or gospel, which is most appropriately termed "the good seed of the kingdom," and which, when it grows up and is fully matured, produces fruit unto eternal life. It is the same Infinite Wisdom which has dictated the arrangements, both of nature and religion. In both, means apparently the most simple, produce the grandest results. In both, the processes are slow and gradual. It is "first the blade, then the ear; then the full corn