

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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SCOTCH BAPTISTS.

For the Christian Banner.

As the Scotch Baptists have laid the axe at the root of clerical dignity, they have generally come in for a full measure of the displeasure of those who love D.D. and Rev. Accordingly we find Dr. Shepard in his address, which has caused so much speculation and criticism among the readers of the Banner, bringing heavy charges against the Scotch Baptists. He gives them credit for nothing that is good. He exhibits only the dark side of the picture without one redeeming quality. I have no hesitation to say that his account of that people is partial and unfair. I am also of opinion that he knows nothing about the people he defames but by report, and this is not always to be depended upon; yet his account of that people is as bold and positive as if he had made them his study for many years. As I was engaged last year considering another part of Dr. S's address, I had hoped that one of my Scotch brethren would come forward and give a more impartial account of the brethren we left behind. Perhaps this has been done, although it did not appear in the pages of the Banner. As I received my first lessons of primitive christianity from the Scotch Baptists I am in duty bound to take their part, and defend them, as far as truth will permit.

What seems to have aroused Dr. Shepard's wrath appears to be, that they maintain that each church has authority to organize itself, choose and ordain its own office-bearers. Now this view is not peculiar to the Scotch Baptists, but is common to them along with a multitude of