

THE

CHRISTIAN BANNER.

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God."
"This is love, that we walk after his commandments."

VOL. VII.

COBOURG, AUGUST, 1853.

NO. 8.

INCONSISTENCY OF INFIDELS.

NUMBER ONE.

BROTHER OLIPHANT :—I propose to write a few brief essays for your valuable publication in answer to some very popular objections against christianity, which indeed have long been urged and often refuted, but which are still unblushingly presented anew by modern sceptics, with a view no doubt of affecting the young, unread and uneducated portions of community. Were I writing a book on the subject it would be necessary to premise several things as introductory, but as the remarks are intended for a monthly periodical, it is doubtless more apposite to come at once to the subject in hand.

And first, it is to be observed that most objections are founded in a supposed incongruity existing between the laws of Nature and those of the Bible—that the respective principles taught in these volumes do not harmonize. Whenever the objector thinks he perceives a disagreement here, he feels at perfect liberty to abandon the Bible and fly to Nature, *whose laws with him are always right*. And we feel very glad that they do acknowledge Nature's teachings to be true exponents of the character and will of God, for this is the fulcrum upon which to place our lever to raise their whole system of objections off its foundation. Thomas Paine calls Nature, "The true Word of God." We very cheerfully admit that whatever principles or laws are legitimately deducible from Nature are right, but we promptly deny that they in any case contravene those developed in the Holy Scriptures. There are mysteries, deep mysteries, doubtless, both in Nature and Revelation; and to our impotent minds, apparent contradictions;—and strange if they were not. We could not expect a caterpillar to comprehend Sir Isaac Newton's *Principia*, nor man to fathom the principles upon which God governs his moral and physical universe. But what we propose to show is this: That whatever *apparent* inconsistencies can be shown in the principles of the Bible, can also be shown in those of Nature; and therefore, that whoever abandons the Bible as his spiritual guide must also give up Nature as his guide.

To illustrate what we mean, let us take an example. How often do we hear men ask with a triumphant air, if God was really the Author of the Jewish wars? Did God command the indiscriminate