

THE CHRISTIAN.

No. 11. } SAINT JOHN, N. B., APRIL, 1840. } Vol. 1.

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Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.—*Peter*. On this Rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.—*The Lord Messiah*.

THE SPIRIT'S INFLUENCE IN THE CONVERSION OF SINNERS.

WE do not purpose writing an essay on the above caption, although an article has been promised. Other matters must first be disposed of. In the mean time, however, we shall make a few desultory remarks on the subject connected with an exposition of John vi. 44,—“No man can come to me, unless the Father which hath sent me draw him.”

This portion of scripture has been quoted innumerable times to prove the special operation of the Spirit in the conversion of sinners. If the *drawing* in the “text” means the direct influence of the spirit; then does the language also prove the *inability* of a sinner to come to the Lord Jesus without this abstract influence; for it is said that “no man can come to me,” &c. Then, why do multitudes, perhaps seven-eighths of the Baptists and Presbyterians of America quote this to prove special operations of the spirit when they proclaim man’s ability to obey the Gospel; and argue that the defect is in the disposition? If this scripture refers to the direct influence of the spirit then are they and *they only* right who quote this to prove that sinners are *unable* to come to the Lord Jesus without the special assistance of the Holy Spirit!

Now, we believe this passage in its plain, obvious acceptation—that no man *can* come to the Lord Jesus without he is *drawn*. It is only necessary to read the connection to see at once to what the “drawing” refers. This scrap preaching is the curse of the age! No person whose eye is not jaundiced with a system would think of any extraordinary drawing from reading this, if he would read only the next sentence.

One of our brethren in the “West,” a mere lad, not long since, hearing this text quoted by a clergyman, to prove our views incorrect, arose in the assembly, and modestly said, ‘be pleased, Sir, to read the next verse.’ The clergyman glanced at it, and answered, “I’ll not be interrupted in my discourse, Sir!”

Hear, then, the subsequent verse, “It is written in the Prophets, and they shall all be taught of God. Every man, therefore, that hath heard and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”

Here, it is at once apparent, that the drawing of the Father means