

THE CHRISTIAN.

No. 4. } SAINT JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER, 1839. } 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.*

CHRISTIAN UNION.—DISTINCTIVE NAMES.

NAMES of themselves are of but very little consequence.—Words are but wind. But then there are names by which we distinguish that which is pleasing, from that which is displeasing;—things which we approve, from those we disapprove. There are also words which convey ideas of goodness, and depravity. A word—a name sometimes has been the means of raising one person and sinking another in the estimation of many of the intelligent, and, even discriminating, among the conflicting classes, of the human family. It is a fact that there are very few close thinkers or reasoners in the community. All that are not such are more or less under the influence of popular prejudices and opinions; and even many who suppose they think closely on all subjects, are still human beings, and very frequently their interests come in contact with their reason, and judgment; and prove too strong for both. Hence the good and wholesome laws of our land permit no man to testify under oath, who is individually concerned in the issue of the case; not because they doubt his honesty, but it is rationally inferred, that a man's interest may, more or less, influence his judgment. This being the case, how necessary it is for christians to use that language which is best calculated to convey their ideas. Who has sufficient wisdom to suggest words for this purpose? The Holy Spirit is ever to be the christian's teacher. Should all professors of religion agree to use no other language but that which the Holy Spirit dictates, how soon would unscriptural names and dogmas cease! The next generation of christians would all be in each other's arms, as were the primitive disciples before Anti-Christ was born. This may be considered a broad assertion, but when we remember that with the death of unscriptural words, heretical doctrines expire, we shall all be willing, we trust, to give the idea at least a few passing thoughts.

With many duties pressing upon us, we took our pen to make a few remarks on names of distinction assumed by the professors of religion in christendom and were led into the above train of reflections.

Many of the names by which denominations are known at the present time, were, no doubt, in the first place, terms of reproach given by