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CONDUCTED BY W. W. EATON.

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*

LETTER FROM ALEXANDER HALL.

Loydsville, Ohio, May 25, 1848.

DEAR BRO. EATON—In looking over the pages of the last "Christian," which I found on my table on returning home from a Union Meeting of the Evangelists in northern Ohio, I was no little delighted to see my proposal to our editing brethren, published in *The Proclamation* some months since, seconded by the editor of *The Christian*, and practically carried out by the editor of *The Western Reformer*. It is to be hoped that this is but the beginning of what we may yet look for, from those who are engaged in the work editorial—in restoring and defending the faith and practice of primitive christians.

THE SUBJECT which I have concluded to write upon, as an introduction to the readers of *The Christian*, is that of ASSURANCE. How can a child of God have *full assurance* that his sins are pardoned—that he is delivered from the power of darkness, and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son? Of all questions connected with the religion of Christ and the enjoyment of his followers in this world of conflict and disappointment, this appears to me decidedly the most important and most worthy of grave consideration. How shall a man distinguish between a false and true hope—between a counterfeit and genuine assurance of pardon? To this point let us direct our thoughts for a few moments.

1st. It is maintained by a large majority of professed Christians that the assurance of pardon consists in a certain train of feelings within a man's own bosom, impressed upon the heart by the Spirit at the time of conversion. To this we demur, for the following reason. Good feelings, which every true Christian enjoys, are always the result of *previous* assurance. We feel well or rejoice, *because* we are assured of our acceptance with God—not *assured* because we have these good feelings, most certainly. Many persons reverse the order and economy of heaven—placing the cause for the effect, and the effect for the cause. Thus, ask that convert who has just "got through," why he is so unspeakably happy? and his answer is, "because I know my sins are forgiven." But