

severely in several places; but I hope her wounds are not mortal. In the "Christian Messenger," Mr. M. says, "Monday a letter was handed me from the excluded minister, J. D." Here J. D. is published an excluded minister, but the *crime* for which he was excluded is kept back; the public left to conclude for some violation of the laws of God. But for the words, *cut off*, exclude, debar. I think about two moons before ever a council met to investigate my "heresy," I bid the Baptist church a final farewell, renouncing their articles, covenants, and fellowship with them, stating that I took the pure word of God to believe, preach, and practice, and so left the meeting house, on a conference occasion. Then came on the clergy, to cut off the man who had gone from them, and had made his escape out of Babylon. This kind of exclusion looks like putting a dead man to death!!

Next, "the letter," says Mr. M. "was full of impudence." The good man took care to withhold the letter from the public, lest they should judge for themselves on this matter. Again, says he, "indeed, challenging me to a public disputation." I designed no challenge, until I heard the above discourse, which was designed doubtless to correct my supposed errors in a house and at a time when he knew I could not get a hearing. I then wished for an opportunity to show him and his brethren that it was in the hands of the *christian*, Paul put the spirit's sword, and not in the spirit's own hand. The authority which takes the sword from the christian's hand would take the helmet from his head, and the breast plate from his breast, and that authority which disarms one soldier will strip all; then must God's army retreat or fall before the victorious roaring lion! Then rejoice, Apollyon! Shout, O Lucifer! Heavens plans are all turned upside down!!

And again, says Mr. M. "He and his factious party attended not to be instructed," &c. We have long since learned how vain it is to seek instruction from those who are only wise in their own systems. I challenge Mr. M. or any other man to prove that either my brethren or myself are guilty of *sedition* or *mutiny*; or that we attended his meeting either to *criticise* or contend. "My method with such characters," says he, "is to let them alone." Would to the Lord this were the truth! Has he forgotten his address from the pulpit in Cornwallis? After much exhortation on the subject of heresy, he told the people "If you cannot avoid hearing him [Elder Benjamin Howard] no other way, *put your fingers in your ears.*" Paul says, "prove all things, and hold fast that which is good." Mr. M. says, "put your fingers in your ears!" This is fighting error by leaving it alone!!

As Mr. M. has fled from the point of the spirit's sword, I wish he would open a column in the "Christian Messenger" (where I am traduced) a few months, that I may spread the apostolic heresy over the land of my nativity.

What a pity that "God's Elect" have thrown off holy and beloved bowels of mercies!!

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[The letter which called forth Mr. M's. remarks in the "Messenger" we here subjoin, that our readers may judge of its propriety or impropriety