

THE RELIGIOUS SPIRIT.

WESTERN STAR, O., 17th Feb. 1852.

BROTHER OLIPHANT :—I am sorry to conclude from your recent address to the readers of your paper, that many are in arrears, and that the prospect looks dark for its continuance. Why is it so? that people have so little taste for religious reading? Many of the miscellaneous papers of the day can boast of their ten thousand subscribers who pay down for the paper, and only regret that the year is so near gone. Many professed Christians take them as well as many of the Magazines of the day, which abound in fiction, or if truths, truths of no other good quality than the amusing style in which the tale is told. While many a religious paper has to go a begging all its life, and finally die for want of support!

It seems to me as if I should hardly know how to keep house without one or more religious papers. I already take five, (all religious,) and still wish for more. I take a religious paper for the following reasons:

1st. I want more knowledge of divine things, and in addition to the study of the Bible, I can learn much by conversing with others. But more by listening to the servants of the Lord as they rightly divide the word of truth. But where I have the instruction in a religious paper, I can often be reminded of religious truths, which might otherwise be forgotten.

2nd. I want to know what is going on in the religious world. When I read of the prosperity of the cause in other places, I am refreshed and stirred up to greater diligence myself.

3rd. I want my children continually under the influence of religious instruction. And what is better for them to read when not reading the Bible, than a religious paper.

4th. When called on by friends, I love to treat them with the Bible, and a half a dozen well edited religious papers.

True, I am sometimes pressed to find means to pay for so many papers. Then I encourage myself by asking what is more important than religious instruction? And how can I obtain it more easily than by availing myself of the labors of others.

But people sometimes say, "I can scarcely get time to read the Bible now, and if I have so much religious reading on hand, I am afraid I shall neglect the Bible altogether. But that is a mistaken idea. The more we read, and hear, and converse on religious subjects, the more we shall be stimulated to read the Bible.

Give us my dear brother, a few essays on the importance of reading religious instruction. Do not be discouraged; the cause we plead is worthy of our untiring efforts.

But let me ask, Is it true that the brotherhood in Canada cannot support one religious paper? Or are they not pleased with the *Christian Banner*? Or have they no love for religious reading? If the latter be the cause, then "cry aloud and spare not; lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show the people their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins."

But I must close this hasty note. Peace be with thee, dear Brother.

A. B. GREEN.