

# CHRISTIAN BANNER.

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God."  
"This is love, that we walk after his commandments."

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## JOHN BUNYAN--A SKETCH.

For the Christian Banner.

"To the names of Baxter and Howe must be added the name of a man far below them in station, and in acquired knowledge, but in virtue their equal, and in genius, their superior, John Bunyan."—*Macaulay*.

John Bunyan, the son of a poor tinker, in his boyhood was taught to read and write very imperfectly. In his youth a blasphemer, "cursing and swearing above his fellows," "taking pleasure in the vileness of his companions"—now and then checked and impressed by Providential occurrences—after long and intense struggles, became the most like an apostle in earnestness, in suffering, in self-devotedness; in faith, and in the joyful and ecstatic hope of heaven, of any who have lived on earth since the days of primitive christianity. By what power was this change wrought? Earth born philosophy cannot explain it. The wretched, conscience smitten Bunyan became—

"The man whose pilgrim marks the road,  
And guides the progress of the soul to God."

And he who could say of himself at one time, "I found within me great desire to take my fill of sin, still studying what sin was yet to be committed, that I might taste the sweetness of it, lest I should die before I had my desires"—cheerfully suffered imprisonment for 12 long years, rather than yield to the law which forbade him to preach the gospel, and afterwards detailed the happy results of his conversion in "Grace abounding to the chief of sinners." It is remarkable,—the age of miracles having passed—that a man of so little education as Bunyan, could have composed the "Pilgrim's Progress," which the ablest authors of modern times have pronounced a masterpiece, and which has circulated more extensively than any other