

God or spiritual men, or to explain to us what you do when engaged in missionary work, and how you learn that the Lord will award to you a happy reward for it, please let us hear from you. We aim to be very social, especially with brethren, here in Brighton. Always pleased to hear from friends!

D. O.

Ere the close of the year we must find leisure if possible to offer an apology for the spiritual brothers and half brothers who cultivate a special mission patch in the vineyard of their labors. We design to say not too much, but just enough! It has been our lot to exercise patience with almost every assortment of pious frailties pertaining to missionary proceedings within the past eight or nine years; and now it is claimed that we have earned the privilege of speaking. Still, we shall always endeavor to have something better to ride than a hobby, and certainly we have no intent to tax others' patience to the degree that ours has been taxed.

AUTHORITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF CHURCHES.

For the Christian Banner.

Every well regulated State or Kingdom possesses both a legislative and an executive power or authority. The constitution of the kingdom of Christ, so far as legislation is concerned, is monarchical or kingly, the Lord Jesus being King on Zion's hill and the sole Lawgiver in his kingdom; but the executive power of this kingdom is in the church, and of course somewhat democratic. 1st. Each congregation is a voluntary association united upon the truth for mutual benefit, all the members having equal rights, powers, and privileges. 2nd. Each congregation is fully authorized to interpret or expound the Bible for itself, preach it, attend to its own discipline and government, choose and appoint its own office-bearers, as well as receive and exclude members. No church can continue long in a healthy state without such authority being exercised in it; and if the churches do not possess this authority, I ask who possesses it? Thus far of the authority of the churches. 3d. The acts and deeds of churches are not subject to be appealed from, revised, or reversed by any court or tribunal on earth by whatever name it may be called, each church being accountable only to