

THE CHRISTIAN.

Vol. III. }

SAINT JOHN, N. B., MAY 1847.

{ No. 5.

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*.

LETTERS TO A YOUNGER BROTHER.

No. 2.

MY DEAR BROTHER—Faith is the main spring of every truly religious effort. “Without faith it is impossible to please God. He who comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Christianity is necessarily a subject of faith before it possibly can be of knowledge. “We walk by faith, not by sight.” Faith is a better principle by which to be governed than either sense or reason. I do not mean by *faith*, that peculiar something which many imagine comes into the soul as electricity descends a lightning rod; nor that something called “the faith,” that individuals can give no better reason for than, “my father, grandfather, and the good old fathers who have gone to heaven before me, believed thus and so, and I think as they did; the religion that carried them safe to heaven will do for me!”

The hearty reception of *facts*, on good and sufficient *testimony*, is the faith of which I speak. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.” “The world by wisdom knew not God.” Intelligent faith in Jehovah springs from a reception of the communications made by him to man. He who rejects these tramples on the only means of true knowledge. He who closes his eyes to the Bible can give no account of his origin or destiny: whence he came; whither he is going, are subjects of mere conjecture. The past to him is doubtful, and the future dark and dreary. Youth and pleasure are fast passing; old age, sickness, sorrow, and something called death, are all before him, and without the lamp of God not a ray of dim star-light or moon-light falls upon his path! The condemner of the Bible is truly an object of commiseration!

I write not thus, my brother, supposing that *you* have a single doubt relative to the truth of the sacred scriptures. But the young men of your generation will be surrounded with sceptical influences. I wish, not only that you should be fully persuaded in your own mind, but that you may be prepared to swell the current of truth and rational thought in opposition to the infidelity into which many in their haste have run, to show themselves independent of their fathers, and the superstitions of their predecessors.

The change that has taken place in sceptical tactics, since Paine's “Age of Reason” was their text book has been very great. Without