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FIRST PRINCIPLES.

In almost any cause, pursuit or undertaking, to guarantee success, much, very much, depends upon the beginning. What lad will attain to any eminence as a scholar who slight the elementary principles of grammar? Who could be a good arithmetician without understanding addition? Strange, passing strange, that the children of men should throw aside reason and experience when they think of teaching the way of salvation. Is it not necessary that we begin right in this great matter? Are there no elements, no first principles, no rudimental studies in christianity? We affirm there are. And if these are not in some degree correctly understood the whole system will be to us, more or less, a fog.

This idea must be of some moment when proposing a plan for "Christian Union." 'Tis a wonder that persons talking so much about "Union" do not think of this. So

long as we have one hundred and one ways of coming into the church, as it is called, how can we be of one mind? One denomination teaches that a person becomes a christian by faith alone, another by prayer, another by baptism and another by repentance. Suppose 1000 persons are pronounced christians by faith alone; and 1000 by baptism alone, how could these agree!! Branching off in the commencement they would in all probability become more widely and permanently separated. They were one in the world, but when trying to become christians they started in different schools! The Lord has taught us that there is "one body," one "church," or one "bnilding." Now has He left us to our own reasoning, to our conscience, or to the promptings of our own hearts, as to how we should become members of that one body? No intelligent man, conversant with the bible, would say he has. The Saviour of sinners was not unmindful of us in this respect. He has told us by His ambassadors—his apostles—very plainly how to become members of that "one body." And this important information we have in words easy to be understood in the Acts of Apostles. Moreover these conditions or terms were given by the Holy Spirit and can be relied on by every son or daughter of Adam, who desires salvation through the blood of the Lamb. Now let the advocate for Christian Union think of this. Let us go back and see if we have started right Go to the foundation and see if all is right there; see if we came on to that foundation just as the blessed Saviour taught. If not