

THE

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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AN ADDRESS SPOKEN IN TROOPSVILLE, N. Y.

The following address will richly repay a careful and critical perusal. It was delivered at a general meeting of Disciples in the State of New York, Troopsville, 17th September, 1852. We judge that brother A. P. Jones in furnishing the public with these thoughts has done a good work. To press it within less room, we omit a paragraph or two. May the Lord add his blessing, and to Him be all the honor, now, henceforth, and forever.

D. O.

In 2^d Tim. ii. 2. it is written, "And the things which thou hast heard from me, among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also;" and Phil. i, 17 "Knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel."

It is very evident from the foregoing remark of the Apostle Paul to Timothy, and indeed, from the tenor of both his epistles to him, that it was then thought the public servants of the church should be faithful men, and carefully chosen. It cannot be supposed that either necessity has since that day ceased to exist. The unlearned yet stand in need of competent instructors; and while error and wickedness are reveling in high and low places of the earth, the church is responsible for the defence of the gospel.

The Christian Church is called upon to perform two classes of public service. One of these might, however, almost be called domestic, for it contemplates the preservation of the body both in the truth and in morals of the gospel, yet the service is to be performed by faithful, competent men, chosen by and from the wisdom and experience of the church, according to the model furnished by inspiration. The other may, perhaps be denominated the *foreign* service of the church—for the church has foreign relations as well as domestic. And while all the powers and prerogatives for the adjustment and regulation of its domestic affairs, are a sacred deposit in each individual church—like our own civil regulations, of *state* and *federal* relation—the conduct of foreign matter may, perhaps, be more efficient by confederate efforts. No fear of encroachment upon personal liberty or the laws of righteousness, need be apprehended as a necessary attendant upon a confederation of churches, however large, while their