

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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Our respected and respectable brother of the Cincinnati Christian Review makes a draft upon his imagination and finds the arrangements of a missionary society in apostolic times, founded upon the discretionary principle, the details of which have not been preserved, but our discretion is to be brought into exercise and our convenience consulted in establishing a society for missions and missionaries in the absence of a model. These, coming from a chief friend of the religion of the christian scriptures, are, to us, not only extra but very unwelcome statements. The beloved Franklin accepts the same material and the same manner of prop. to support the newly devised society that the zealous Merrill accepts and uses to set and keep the modern altar in its place. Expediency in Cincinnati, Ohio, ordains and shields the missionary framework, and expediency at Portsmouth, Ohio, makes good the latest kind of altar. But it is still true—'That which is born of the Spirit is spiritual,' and shall we not say it is equally true that whatever is born of expediency is only a human expedient?

But friend Franklin, in replying to the question whether the first Christian brethren either 'organized' or required a missionary society, responds very loosely. He says not directly that they either had or needed such a society. If we mistake not, he is unable to say anything on the subject by faith. He writes as well as walks by modern discretion. They made arrangements, he says, and these missionary arrangements