

# THE CHRISTIAN SENTINEL.

I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.—HAB. ii. 1.

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## INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.

SINCE it is customary for those who undertake the management of public Journals, to commence their editorial labours with an address to their patrons, and an announcement of the principles which are to be their guide, we shall at once shew all due regard to established usage, and pay our humble respects to the public.

It will be taken for granted, that since the Christian Sentinel is announced as being under the special patronage of the Lord Bishop of Quebec, that it is to be considered in a manner as the accredited organ of the Anglo-Canadian Episcopal Church, and of course it will be expected to speak on all occasions, in unison with the language used by the Church in her various offices and formularies. We therefore at once profess ourselves to be zealously, from the fullest conviction of their unrivalled excellence, and their perfect agreement with the word of God, conscientiously attached to her doctrines and worship, from which we trust, nothing in this world has power to separate our hearty affection. It shall be our decided aim, occasionally to illustrate, explain, and recommend them to our readers, both as the most efficient helps to rational worship, sober and serious devotion and that "reasonable service" which we owe to our God; and no less as the most salutary safeguard to the maintenance of a pure and scriptural belief, equally removed on the one hand from the slavery of implicit faith and unquestioning credulity; and on the other from that lawless spirit which will bend to no authority but its own; two singular blessings for which we cannot be sufficiently thankful to Almighty God.

Since men are so much divided on the subject of religion as we find them, it is not unreasonable to expect that in our Editorial duties, we may be called on to defend our doctrines. Self defence always supposes some wrong done by an opposite party. But since both sides possess, or pretend to possess the same claims, and truth, from various causes of misconception, is not always understood when clearly stated,—nay sometimes even believed in a totally opposite sense, (and error may be on either part) and moreover since the spirit of Christianity is that

of kindness and charity, forbearance and good will, self defence should be tempered with the same spirit, and controversy be directed purely to the discovery or preservation of truth. Mildness and persuasion should combine with, and soften as it were, the uncompromising character of fundamental and stable principles. For truth should be held sacred as our allegiance to the King of kings, and sound principles should never witness the disgrace of a surrender, or even a compromise. Should such be demanded, it is lawful to "contend earnestly for the faith," to "rebuke sharply," and expose the fallacies of those who "teach things which they ought not."

We trust, however, never to tax the credulity of our readers for homage to our *assertion* in matters of argument. We love proof for ourselves, and we are willing to give it to others. We should always desire to inform the mind, and convince the understanding, as well as to win upon the affections; for that attachment is insecure whose foundation is not deeply laid in the understanding. Choice and fancy may guide in common affairs of life, but the religion of Christ must appeal to higher principles. The question. Why am I disposed to believe this, and make it the object of my choice, should always be answered by an humble reference to the declared will of God, and the matured judgment of experienced men.

We should not shrink from the imputation even of uncharitableness, for a strict adherence to principle; because that can never be charity to another which is injustice to one's-self. Truth can never suffer by an impartial examination; and no man should fear the test of his religious principles. If from the contest they come off victorious he cannot but love them the more; and if they prove to be wrong, the sooner he knows it the better.

We shall aim to make the Christian Sentinel a popular paper, and worthy of support; to make it interesting and attractive to the majority of readers and a means of imbuing their minds with the spirit of the Gospel. Sketches of biography, natural history, remarkable news, &c. will occasionally find a corner in our columns. An eye shall be had to *missionary intelligence*; and we shall always be happy