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"ONE IS YOUR MASTER, *even* CHRIST: AND ALL YE ARE BRETHREN."

COMMENCEMENT OF VOLUME III.

If the 24 Propositions which constitute the *Tribune's* declaration of sentiments, are not inserted at the beginning of this Volume, as in the case of its two predecessors, it is simply because it is believed that they are now sufficiently easy of access otherwise; and it is firmly believed that under their guidance a useful and prosperous future awaits the *Gospel Tribune*. Thanks, many and fervent, are due to the thousands who have kindly aided in promoting the *Tribune's* mission. The kind notices of the Press, Religious and Political, claim especial acknowledgment, which will be more fully expressed hereafter. Individuals, in many localities, have also very special claims to be ever gratefully remembered. Their encouraging words and acts, though not proclaimed by the *Tribune* as upon the house top, have been none the less productive of good, all of which will be made manifest in due time. Contributors have all acted with so much consideration and kindness, that a single instance of unpleasant feeling is not known to have been created in any case by the freest exercise of the Editor's privileges. This result also calls for fervent gratitude. A slight change has been made in the title page. It will be observed, however, that it indicates no change in the spirit or aim of the Journal; that, still remains the same; the change being expressive rather of a determination to adhere to it with growing earnestness, under a solemn and ever increasing depth of conviction that it is just as impossible for true christians to err, in being *too closely united* in the fellowship and ordinances of the gospel, where Christ has fellowship with each, as it is for any of them to err in being too closely united in their fellowship and union with him. The great error of the Christian world being a grievous lack of charity and brotherly love, causing the individuals to stand *too far apart*, and often even leading them to repel one another, to the great disparagement of religion.—While christian intercourse remains in this state, it is vain to expect that the world will believe; and hence the importance of all efforts put forth, for the promotion of union among the people of God. In laboring for union, however, great care must be taken in order that the union secured, be that manifestation of oneness for which Christ prayed,—the communion of true believers—the fellowship of *visible* christians, *i. e.*, of individuals whose conversation makes their piety a *visible* reality—that makes their love to God and man *apparent*; and which proves that their profession of religion springs not from earthly motives, but from the pure and holy influences of the Spirit of God. A christianity that is indebted for its *visibility* not simply to a church-record—the water of baptism—or to the cry of "Lord! Lord!" but to a life and daily deportment, which in its general tone and spirit, clearly characterizes the individual who is in earnest and fervent in his devotion to the will of God. Firmly believing that it was for this union Christ prayed, and not for the union of the world nor yet for the union of the Church and world, these distinctions will be carefully maintained in the pages of the *Tribune*; so that while extending the limits of communion and church-membership *among christians* to the greatest possible extent, it will still be sought to confine those limits so as to exclude, if possible, all other characters; till *acknowledged* christian character shall constitute the *only* passport at any time, and the *perfect* passport at all times and in all places to every communion and church worthy of the christian name. Let christians fully understand each other, and become thoroughly acquainted and the work is done.