
CHRISTIAN SUN.

Elder Daniel W. Kerr, Editor.

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The following is extracted from the Christian Register, a weekly paper in the interest of the Unitarians, published at Boston. The arguments upon the Christian name, are the same as those which the Christians have been urging for the last half century. It affords us great pleasure to discover that many respectable persons of other denominations are coming forward in a commendable spirit of independence, proclaiming the convictions of truth relative to this subject, to which their investigations of Bible Christianity and of Bible Order, have conducted them. It is only under this great family name, that we can entertain the most distant idea of any thing like Christian Union. If we mistake not, it augurs well for the prosperity of Zion, to see the subject of Union among Christians occupying the thoughts and reflections of many prominent individuals in the various Protestant denominations. Christians, I have no doubt, have become ashamed of the dissensions which have been so rife amongst the professors of religion, even the blessed religion of love. We can but rejoice, when we meet with able arguments for concentrated action amongst the disciples of the blessed Lord, and some fundamental position taken and exhibited in bold relief, as the rallying point for all the Lord's friends. Sectarian names can never bring about union among the Lord's people. There must be one name which all acknowledge, and by embracing which, none will have to sacrifice conscience. One party will not thereby have to pass over and join itself to another; but by throwing down partition walls, which consists in the works of men, all will be together, all may rally as Chris-

tians, and by taking the book of God, move sweetly on under the standard of Prince Emanuel. Those invidious distinctions which have heretofore prevailed to a great extent, will then be thrown by, as fit to be used only by those who are laboring for the prince of darkness.

As long as men, collected together as a body of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, shall appropriate to themselves some epithet besides that of Christian, as indicative of certain doctrinal views, there must necessarily be scism or division among them; unless they should possess powers of mind superior to human; for owing to the imbecility of human judgment, no one can be absolutely certain that the views he may entertain are infallibly true. And hence the importance of assuming a name, not from any point of doctrine or particular mode worship, or of administering the ordinances, but from the circumstance of relationship to the great Head of the Church. Now a name selected in this way must be expressive of the relationship a believer sustains to the Lord Jesus Christ; no other name expresses that relationship so appropriately as that of Christian. Sectarians, while they contend for their distinctive appellations, still claim, in connexion therewith, the name which they confess is peculiarly apposite to the followers of Jesus our Lord. So then, the present divided state of the church cannot be correct, from the fact that it seems to demand the use of other names than that which the Lord designated. The first thing to be done, in our humble judgment, in a return to primitive simplicity, is to disregard every name or title except the one plainly set forth in the word of God. It is a clear case to all persons who are well informed upon these subjects, that names, as party distinctions, are powerful in keeping up divisions amongst saints, so that we conceive it to be a matter of great importance to have the name of the Lord