Clarksville, 17th April '84. 

1. 561-135. So, what a glorious sight appears,
2. 568-191. Say, who is she that looks abroad,
3. 590-135. Sing to the Lord in joyful strains.

In the name of our God we will set up our banners.” Ps. 20:3.

In order to represent Him to His God on earth, to uphold and maintain this warfare vs. Sin, God has chosen to organize His Church upon earth, for the double purpose of conquering and subduing sinners to Himself, and after winning them back, to furnish them a safe and secure fortress, and refuge against the influences that would draw them back away from Holiness, Peace, and Truth. When therefore men are thussweetly conquered by the spiritual weapons of this Holy War, it is not only the suggestion of a newborn love of gratitude, but...
to God that springs up within the regenerate heart, that prompts the entrance into the army of their Lord, but it is a part of their nature; there has been infused into them the measure of the Holy Spirit, whereby they have become partakers of the Divine nature, so that what God loves they love; what God abhors they hate; what God’s cause requires they are ready to do, and their will coincides entirely and universally with the will of God, and His service becomes their highest happiness, and their chief delight, and with them they ask with Paul, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”

(which I have in these remarks)

The object in view is to introduce the characters who are represented as speaking the words
of our text: "In the name of our God we will set up our banners." They are God's people who say this; once rebels, now saints; once against God; now enlisted on His side; once fighting against their; now fighting for Him. And as this warfare is waged against the Powers of Darkness, as it will continue to be waged until Satan shall be bruised under His feet, and as God's work are performed by His people, as His agents, so the people of God when they begin the spiritual warfare set up banners, as they not only proclaim this war, whether it be to defend themselves against the assaults of Satan and to drive Satan from the control of the world, but to convert sinners to God as well.
Ps. 20:5

"In the name of our God, we will set up our banners."

We inquire into the meaning of the banners here mentioned; and

II. Why such resolutions should be made.

1. It is to be observed that a banner is an flag or standard bearing always a symbol, and very often an inscription or motto. In the case of the banner set up by the people of God, the symbol is the Cross of our Righteousness, and on it is inscribed ineffaceable letters of light and glory "The Lord our Righteousness."

and it is dedicated unto Him that loved us, and saved us with an everlasting salvation, to Him be glory and honor, majesty, and dominion forever. The banner of the individual Christian is the pro-
ession of His faith in Xt. All men can see that.
He is not of tentations with it. But he believes
in what Xt said: 'Whosoever confesseth me,
and so just the moment he becomes
a conquered rebel himself, and enters
into the number of the followers of the Re-
deemer, he despised himself in the
Army of the Great Captain of his salvation,
and comes out fearlessly, honestly, sincerely,
and confesses Xt before men, and is not
ashamed of him. For the Cross is
not ostensibly thrust before you in its
sensible and tangible form, — and worn
upon the bosom externally, and erected
on the steeple of your Chrs. That is not
the Cross of Xt. It is but the Confission, the
It may be abused or has been abused, so that it
abuse of which by an wickedly Apostate Ch.
has caused the true Soldier of Jesus to turn
away from it and to regard it as any
thing but an emblem of salvation.

But the Cross of X which is the true
coat of arms of the Christian Soldier, is
the Gospel of Truth; and it is deeply
imprinted upon his heart, shown by
his outward conformity to the
doctrines of that Gospel. Not needing to be
shown by this trinket, or ornament, but "Known
\tread of all men" by a well ordered walk
and a godly conversation, a "living
epistle" a "lively stone" in the spirit
ual building, that temple of the living God
the invisible body of the Lord Jesus X: the blood
tought Church. This display of the banner of profession
is made that all men know the Xian to be what he professes to be, and that he is on
the side of the Lord. Then I say, I. We learn the reasons for the use of banners in Religion from
the banner are chosen by those who proclaim war. The banner bearer of the Army of the
Lord, the true child of God, imparts his
banner to let it be known that he pro-
claims war against all that is at war
Let it be ever be borne in mind that with God, the spirit, the principles,
the declarations, the law, precepts, and
injunctions of the Gospel are all in dead-
ly hostility against the spirit of an ungodly world, of human nature.
The corruptions, the ruinous heresies of human society, the sinful follies of...
ions which so absorb and pre-occupy the minds of vast numbers. The word of God, which is the Book of Constitutions for His Government, distinctly states that His design in redeeming sinners was "to purify unto Himself a peculiar people." Now if they are a peculiar people, then there must be some method of distinguishing them from those who are not His. What if in a battle between two powerful Armies a detachment of one of them should assume the banner, all the equipments and uniform of the other; what would be the possibility of distinguishing them from those they resembled? Then how are Professors of religion to demonstrate their loyalty to Jesus Christ, if they fly to the breeze the very same flag or banner that is the
men of the world? It may be said truly that in these days of degeneracy it is very often one of the most difficult tasks to distinguish the members of the Ch. from the Children of the world. In their commercial transactions; in their social habits; in their intercourse with the men of the world; in their indifference to the services of God's House; in their neglect of family religion, "what do they more or differently from others?" Their righteousness does not exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees, and He declares of those who thus act, that they shall in no case enter into the Kingdom of Heaven! Such members of the Church are not true soldiers of the Cross; they are deserters; they are not under the banner of the people of
God have set up in His name. They are marching under the banner of the world; the trumpet of their xtiaw life gives forth an uncertain sound, and carries with it no significant meaning, and utters no word of encouragement to the army of the living God; echoes no word of cheer promising of victory; but it cheers and encourages the enemy; disheartens the timorous; and distresses even the true soldier of the Cross; weighs like lead upon the spirit of the watchman upon the Walls of Zion; and, what is worse, provokes God Himself; brings disgrace upon the name of Jesus; grieves the Holy Spirit; and sets back the advancement of the Church in its conquest of the world for many a long, dark, and wearisome year. Such
men maybe in the camp of the Lord; but they are not true men; they not only do nothing for God's glory but a great deal to the dishonor of God. They are Achan's in the Camp; and very often it is on their account that the hosts of God are defeated and turn their backs before the enemy. But I remark

2. Banners are set up as Centers of Attraction to rally and to lead the hosts engaged. Often in the midst of the smoke & confusion of battle the line would be broken, and the hosts dispersed, but for the sight of the banner waving aloft, and every eye must be seeking for its familiar folds, and its emblems and mottos, or they are in imminent peril of ruin and overthrow. So it is eminently true of the army of the living God and of every individual
al soldier of the Cross, that the arm must be firmly, unwaver-
ingly, fixed upon the banner of the Truth, with its Gospel
emblems and its glorious Mottoes. Sometimes the
powers of darkness, and the influences of spiritual
 wickedness in high places, the Clamors of Infidel-
ity, and the assaults of worldliness, gather all
their forces for one combined attack upon the
Church of God. Under such a "battle of warriors with
confused noise and garments rolled in blood,"
the crucial test is applied, and the true and tried
spirits of the Church stand firm, and undamaged
amid the terrors of the onset. There are those
whose names are upon the roll, however,
whose souls are melted within them when
the "enemy comes" thus "rushing in like a
flood," and failing to understand that they
the promise is "the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a banner vs him," look not for the banner as it still floats high above the din of battle, the reach of defeat. Such men reach suddenly the conclusion that the cause is lost, that the Ch. is about to be overwhelmed, that Sowlessness, Atheism, and worldliness are about to triumph, and that it will not be long until Satan this host will achieve the victory and drive the armies of the Redeemer, and all the soldiers of the Cross from the field. But under such a pitiful representation of cowardice, the true Courageous warriors stands by and has him look for the banner of the Smith; to rally to that; to follow that even through the thick of the fight, even to the fore-front of the hottest battle; and though he may not be much of a warrior yet let him lay hold
of the Cross, and cling to that, and all will go well; and let such tomorrow's Christians take Spurgeon's words, "God is not dead, and He will beat the Devil yet. As surely as Jesus Christ won the victory on the cross, He will win the victory over the world's Sin." Look for your banner, and if you can find that, you need apprehend nothing. The Church is in no danger.

It may be that the enemy's assaults made upon her onslaughts are heavy, but her towers and bulwarks are immovable and impregnable, and so long as the people of God continue to set up their banners in the name of their God, the gates of Hell shall not prevail against her. "Woe is me, just as true, in the case of the individual than. Many a burning storm of fiery darts must he endure from the wicked
one, which will try the strength of his faith, and the courage of his heart. Temptations may come upon him in the most powerful and unexpected manner, and before it he may feel that all must give way as the forest before the hurricane's breath. And so it will, if he rely only upon human strength to resist.
There has never yet been found one man who possessed, in himself alone the courage, the strength, the will, the fierce indomitable hates of sin, whereby he can conquer in the strife with the great enemy that goeth about seeking whom he may devour. But thanks to God! All along the march of history, and all along the line of our live.
the banners of God's eternal truth are standing set up by His people in past times, set up by them "in the name of our God". Underneath, their ample folds is the spot, where "the least feeblest may abide, uninjured, unscarred. While thousands fall on every side, they rest secure in God." So when found, the only safety is in keeping close to the standard. Peter "followed afar off" and fell. Thomas absented himself from the gathering of the disciples for prayer, for faithless unbelieving. Judas loved the wages of iniquity and died by his own hand. David allowed his heart to go astray from the banner of truth and virtue in an evil hour became guilty of the double
crime of murder and adultery. So be warned in time, and avoid everything that is not stamped with the image and superscription of the Gospel. allure as you may be and will be, time after time to scenes and places of earthly entertainment, always look to ascertain whether the banner of the Gospel, the inscription "Holiness unto the Lord" deeply ingrained into it, is floating from their battlements, and if not "avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it and pass away."

"Remove thy way far from" all such places of resorts, "for of the presiding genii of such and the doors of such houses of iniquity, it may be truly said, while their lips drop as an honey comb, and their mouth is smoother than"
oil, their end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a
two-edged sword; their feet go down to death;
their steps take hold on hell." I remark.

1. Banners are used sometimes as emblems of
Peace. Preliminary to the close of the war, a
flag of truce—a white flag—is set up
and this in token of a desire for peace.
I would not, my beloved, that you should be left
under the impression that God in all the
conflict with sin and error has ever had
other than thoughts of Peace toward you.
Hard fought fields there have been and the object
has been to conquer you, and deliver you from
the power of Sin. But all the period of this
warfare the only feelings of enmity felt by either
party are those you have felt toward God. He has
had none but thoughts of Love & Peace. Once when by the power of Omnipotent Grace He has over come ye hostility and brought you to see that your unfitness, and ye lost trained condition at what time you have feared to come to Him. He has mercifully displayed the banner of peace—He has made the way open to a cessation of hostilities, and while it is the same blessed banner of the Gospel, stamped all over with the emblem of the Cross, it is full of invitations & promises, and beseechings, and intreaties to you to come into Him & He will "in no wise cast you out," and while the glorious proposal "Come now & let us reason together, saith the Lord, the priests be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow,"
and though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool;" He declares, "He that believeth upon the Son of God hath eternal life." So under this emblematic representation of a banner of peace & hope, we read & understand the meaning of the Apostle's declaration: "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in His stead be ye reconciled to God."

We plant here today the flag of peace, the white and spotless banner of peace, and we invite you to come and be reconciled to God. He is already pacified by the work of Christ. He waits to be gracious; "all that is needful to the establishment of peace between you is that you come & be reconciled to God. Come then and come without delay."
t: Banners are symbols of victory. God's word
makes frequent mention of victory and
Triumph. Conquered in ancient times were decreed what was
called a Triumph. Arches were erected under
which he passed amid the congratulations of his countrymen, the weaving of
garlands of honor, and the waving of ban-
ners, amid great rejoicing. The conquests of the
Cross over men's hearts by the power of
Divine Spirit and under the influences
of the Divine Spirit, are but feebly faintly
set forth by such displays. The victory acquired over
Sin and Satan when
one soul is converted is frequently alluded to in
such terms in Scripture as show conclusively
that is deemed a very precious and glorious event.
The banner of this victory has on it such inscriptions as
These: "There is joy in the presence, etc. Rejoice with me for I have found the piece of silver which I had lost. There is more joy than over 99. This my son was lost and is found." Let him know that he that is broken is not.

2. But a succession of victories awaits the faithful soldier of the Cross. The banners set up on such occasions have upon them such inscriptions as these: "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" - a realizing belief in God's Word, fear of God's wrath, hope of Heaven, and receiving Him, treating upon Him alone. It is a sense of God's presence evermore around Him to witness everything to uphold and support. Only victory can come to such, and it is of such, that the words "Ye come off conquerors more than conquerors, third x1. J. 26" and the promise "Hold out faithful unto death: and I will give thee a
crown of Life." To all which we have Paul's personal testimony: - I am now ready to be offered up to
3. The banner of Victory is set up over one more scene, "the last enemy that shall be overcome is
Death." The fear and doubts that harass the view of death may be overcome. But that is not the triumph mentioned. It is completed on the morning of the second resurrection. "When this corruption shall have put on incorruption, etc. and when
"Arrayed in glorious grace,
Shall these vile bodies shine,
And every shape and every face
Look heavenly and divine!"

When to those who "hold out faithful unto death shall have a crown of glory that fadeth not away
and so an entrance shall be ministered unto them abundantly into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and
Saviour Jesus Christ"