

These examples of the Scripture meaning of baptism must suffice for shewing that immersion is by no means *the* signification of the word.

III. AFFUSION, POURING, OR SPRINKLING, IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

1. It accords with the examples of baptism there preserved. I have shewn, from Acts xxii. 16., that Paul, when baptized, was in a state of exhaustion, which would forbid plunging into cold water, and was required to "stand up," to receive the water;—that the Samaritans who had to "fetch" water (John iv. 7,) from a well, were baptized in large numbers;—that the Philippian Jailor, with his family, just roused from sleep, was in the night and within the prison, baptized;—that Cornelius and his family, were, within his house, baptized; and the Apostle Peter spoke of water being forbidden, rather than of the persons being forbidden to be immersed;—that the crowds who were in a few hours baptized in Jerusalem, on the day of Pentecost, without any previous provision for the service, must have been too numerous to be immersed by the twelve; and if they were baptized by more than the twelve (say, for instance, the seventy,) a greatly increased improbability is encountered in providing so many immersion places at a moment in the centre of a city, always short of water, and in the midst of an actively hostile and persecuting population and priesthood. The impossibility of dipping having been used in these cases of baptism, leaves us to the alternative that sprinkling or pouring was the mode employed. Other cases might have been adduced, bearing the same character, as, for instance, that of five thousand converted (Acts iv. 4,) and probably, according to usage, immediately baptized, who could have received the ordinance from only two apostles, Peter and John; and that in, or near, Solomon's Porch, where immersion would be impossible, and prevented by the priests. Now, as in these cases, we are shut up to the conclusion that only a little water could have been obtained, as every circumstance was unfavourable to immersion—the easier and simpler mode must have been resorted to.

Then baptism evidently means wetting, by descending water,