

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF BAPTISTS.

A short time since we proposed addressing a series of letters to the "Christian Connexion." A few articles concerning them may be of general benefit to our readers. A personal acquaintance with many of their ministers, and an association of two or three years with them, have given us a general knowledge of their faith and practice.

In preparing articles, however for "The Christian," two questions of importance usually suggest themselves to us, namely: Will this subject be of benefit to the readers? and can we make it so plain that all can understand us? Knowing that the power of a fact consists in understanding it, we are particularly anxious to be understood.

Thinking over this subject, we were at a loss to make a beginning, as nine tenths of our readers know nothing about the "Christian Connexion." After pondering the question, how shall we best edify our readers? we concluded to give a brief sketch of the rise of the denomination. Their history being particularly blended with the Calvinistic Baptists, and in the minds of a great multitude associated with the Free Will Baptists, and others, it appeared necessary to give also a brief outline of the different kinds of Baptists, that is, of those who believe and practice immersion wholly, to the exclusion of infant affusion. To this then we shall attend.

AMERICAN BAPTISTS.

The first Baptist Church in America was organized in 1639. The celebrated Roger Williams was the founder. He came to New England a few years after the Puritan Fathers landed on Plymouth rock. He was then an English Independent or what is now known in the United States as a Congregationalist. He was settled as the minister of Salem, Massachusetts. For contending "*that the civil power had no jurisdiction over the conscience,*" he was summoned to Boston. To avoid transportation, he fled in the midst of winter with twelve friends to the territory of the Narraganset Indians. Here he formed a settlement, and called it Providence, in memory of God's preserving care that had been over them. He embraced the principles of the Baptists and was immersed by one of his associates, though himself unimmersed. Mr. Williams then baptized his companions, and they formed as above stated, the first Baptist Church in America. This Church exists at the present day, now more than two hundred years; and what is remarkable, although recognized as a regular associate Baptist Church, they never had any other written or printed articles of faith than the Bible!

Many of the first American Baptists were Arminians. Their first articles of faith, particularly that which was designated the "Philadelphia confession," were, however, decidedly Calvinistic. Frequent revisions of their articles in the United States, have rubbed off nearly all the very obnoxious points, peculiar to Calvin, and now the confession of a New Hampshire association, given in a popular work, as the sentiments of the denomination, say "that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents