



## THE BAPTISTS AND DISCIPLES.

THE POSITION THEY OCCUPY.

REJOINDER.

ELDER OLIPHANT: SIR:—I am in receipt of No 12, Vol iv, of the *Witness* and what you have written in this and the foregoing numbers of your periodical I have read. When you projected the plan of publishing the doctrinal views &c of the disciples in *your own organ*, and submitted the same to me for sanction, I did not object to your pursuing that course: but at that time I was not aware that your object in so doing was two fold:—viz. the advocacy of your own views (purely apostolical!!) and a design to hold up the Baptist denomination in the unfavourable and invidious light in which you have done. The first of these I understood to be your object, not the second; and had you “kept to your text,” I might and undoubtedly *would* have viewed your “pious performance” in a light very different from what I now do.

In acceding to your arrangement I pledged myself to no positive reply, save that to which it might in my judgment be entitled. All the reply I *now* feel called upon to make is here contained. Were I to give a reply to the whole of your letters, it would involve us in a controversy which would be unpleasant to me in the extreme, and unprofitable to both. From what I know of your debating with Universalist champions &c, I should be inclined to argue that you *loved controversy* I do not. I am a man of peace. Every where—at all times—with all men—do I wish to cultivate it, but especially with brethren. Besides, were I so inclined, the nature of my engagements forbids it. I am not so much a polemical writer as a humble worker in my Master's vineyard. My time is fully occupied in the discharge of the duties I owe to my God, the church, and the world.

My feelings are easily wounded, and I am sorry to say that in the perusal of your letters this has frequently been the case. I am now commencing a protracted meeting (  Not distracted  ) and I cannot and will not allow myself to be called off from my work by any object of minor importance. “Woe is me if I preach not the gospel.” “I am doing a great work so that I cannot come down; why should the work cease while I leave it and come down to you” Neh. vi. 3. Meanwhile, I would observe that after reading your epistles carefully, my mind is not in any degree enlightened. Before your verbose productions appeared in your columns, I was aware of the meaning of term *Baptist*!—that the apostles did not require of a *convert* desiring admission to church fellowship a “*Christian Experience*” (a charge falsely made against the Baptists)—that the church of Rome has persecuted and killed the Saints of God in by-gone ages!—that “sectarianism is not in the Bible but out of it!”—that “conversion is a new creation,” and some score other truths of a kindred cast: but I am grieved, and that deeply, that a minister of Christ who talks so confidently and exultingly of standing on ground “far above the peaks and pillars of partyism,” should be so far carried away by party zeal in its unloveliest form as to traduce and scandalize those whom he cannot but regard as brethren. *O pudor.*