

THE CHRISTIAN.

No. 9. } SAINT JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY, 1840. { Vol. 1.

CONDUCTED BY W. W. EATON.

Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.—*Peter*. On this Rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.—*The Lord Messiah*.

BAPTISM.—THE ACTION. No. I.

During the last three centuries the meaning of this word has been in dispute. Whether it expresses one act, or three, has been the controverted point. The pens and tongues of men, eminent for learning, have been employed in this discussion. We have not the vanity to suppose, that, with our limited resources, we can present any thing new. A brief and concise view of the whole controversy is called for. "Baptists" and "Païdo-Baptists" assert and re-assert, that writers have conceded this point, that and the other. Some tell us that such a Lexicographer says that the words in connection with the controversy mean this, and another denies it; and, hence, the controversy is loaded with much superfluous matter. More is said about what commentators and great men have asserted, than concerning the language and meaning of words used by holy men, who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

The object, therefore, of this paper, is to give a concise scriptural view of the question. We claim no originality in the exposition. We are debtors to Baptists and Païdo-Baptists; but more particularly to the brethren of the Reformation, whose works we shall use as shall best subserve our purpose in exhibiting the truth to our readers. Our time is so much occupied in various ways that we would gladly have presented some other productions on the subject; but none in our estimation, were just what the readers of "The Christian" required.—Generally, they are too voluminous. In them there is such a display of classic lore, that not one reader in a thousand could understand the writers, and consequently his labour is lost. Had it not, however, been for the traditions and inventions of men, no volume need have been put into our hands for the settlement of this and every other question connected with our happiness, but the word of God. But men have propagated other views than those contained in the volume of inspiration, and they must be met and refuted, if we would see the truth victorious.