

A PROPOSED PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

MILTON, (Q. C.) N. S. JAN. 29, 1841.

MR. W. W. EATON.—*Sir*,—Though a stranger to you, I take the liberty of addressing a letter to you for your useful periodical, if you deem it worthy of a place in its pages.

Hearing that there was a public discussion to take place at Mills Village, between Elder Benjamin Howard and Mr. George Mack, a Methodist preacher, and being led through curiosity to go and hear for myself, I learned the fact that Elder Howard had preached there on the establishment of the Church of Christ on the earth; and had then proposed to show the way in which the sinner is to obtain pardon, and enter into the church. In order to the more clear understanding of this proposition, he delivered a second discourse on the use of the scriptures, and showed that the word of God is the only criterion of all religious sentiments, and that they should be his only standard of proof on the subject; and that he had also delivered a third discourse, which was on being "Born of Water and the Spirit," in which he appealed to the 2d chapter of Acts, verse 38, as proof that the sinner must first Believe; secondly, Repent; and thirdly, be Immersed, in order to be Born again, and enter into the Church of Christ.

Mr. George Mack was present and heard the discourses, and at the conclusion of the last said, that he thought the speaker laid too much stress on Baptism. Elder Howard gave him liberty to bring all the objections he thought proper, and said he was ready to answer them; but Mr. Mack declined further remarks.

Elder Howard then gave out another appointment, for that day week, to which there was no objection; but when he returned to fill it, he found that Mr. Mack had preached on the Lord's day previous, from Acts ii. 38, and told his congregation that it was not absolutely necessary, from the sense of the text, for the sinner to be bapuzed in order to obtain pardon; the doors were shut against him, and he had no opportunity to reply to Mr. Mack's opinion on that point. And although the School House was not only built for the purpose of teaching a school in, but also to be free for the use of all denominations of christians to preach in, and although they knew perfectly well of his appointment, and did not at the time it was given out object to it, nor even send him any word to countermand their permission, yet they gave him the trouble and expence of travelling over twenty miles for no purpose, but to learn another lesson of high-handed arbitrary inconsistency of his fellow men. However, not to be wholly discomfited by such a procedure, he obtained permission of one of the Trustees (not a Methodist) to occupy the House for one meeting, and he then, forthwith, put up the following "Notice: I shall preach in the School House at Mills Village on Thursday the 28th inst. (January), from Acts ii. 38, from which I shall prove that it is the sinner's duty to be baptized in order to obtain pardon of sins. Mr. George Mack, or any other Methodist Minister, is requested to meet before the public, and shew to the contrary. Each will speak thirty minutes alter-