

INTRODUCTION.

In presenting my Reasons to the public, I believe that, without guile, I have unbosomed the sentiments of my heart, and I believe that they are in accordance with the Divine mind as recorded in the Bible. I never should have divulged my views on the subject by this means, did I not think that "the signs of the times" demanded them, and that it would be sinful in me to retain them. They are written in a plain and undisguised manner, and not with a design to offend any one, though probably some will be offended, because such is the natural consequence of the development of truth.

I have been told that "*the Pedo-baptists had no Scripture to stand on;*" that "*the Baptists had;*" that "*I should yet be a Baptist,*" and in order that such might be the case, the Baptists have reasoned with me—presented such passages of Scripture to me, as they thought bore directly on the point; furnished me with arguments adduced by the ablest writers of the day on the subject: among their great champions were the Rev'ds. A. Crawford, Wm. Jackson, and a recent work by C. Tupper, which was warmly recommended by the Association. In these works I found some good grain, but of chaff, more abundantly; a great deal for the head, and the support of a conjectural fabric, but little for the heart; the Scriptures in some places glossed over with the opinions of men; other passages wrongly construed; and sometimes the traditions of men substituted for the word of God. Upon the whole, I am led to believe that such sectarian works have done more harm to the cause of God than good. "How vain are all such shades; how false and yet how fair." Without something more substantial,—viz. holiness of heart—we never shall see the Lord.