

from these errors. It is the necessary consequence of the doctrines which constitute them Baptists.

While thus Baptists have alone been free themselves from these evil results of pedobaptism, their principles and protest have been chiefly instrumental in leading pedobaptists themselves to cast off the deadly spawn of their own doctrine, so far as this has been done. The following facts speak volumes on the point. So long as Baptists were regarded as the offscourings of the earth, and only fit to be tortured and slain, and could not, therefore, exert any denominational influence upon others, so long did baptismal regeneration and an unregenerated and corrupt church go hand in hand with church and state and poison fanged persecution. Even when the great reformation shook the old world, Luther held to infant baptism, and, in order to maintain it, his glorious doctrine of justification by faith alone must be laid a lifeless sacrifice on the altar of ritualism, as he taught that baptism secured this faith to the infant. The Baptist voice was not yet heeded, as it was only heard in wailing from dungeons and from martyr fires. It has only been within little more than a century that the Baptists have emerged from the foul aspersions of their enemies, and compelled a respect which has given them a power to influence denominations. It has been only within this time also, that Pedobaptists have begun to throw off these unhallowed results of pedobaptism, and the progress in this direction has about kept pace with Baptist growth. In respect to intolerance and church and state, it is a fact of history that Baptists, by their endurance and firmness, secured the overthrow of these in what is now the United States, and their influence in leading to the rejection of sacramental efficacy and an unregenerate church cannot well be denied. Still further, among the denominations which have been shut out from Baptist influence by pride or other reason, as the Catholic and the Episcopal, there these evils remain unbroken ; but among the Methodists and