

the records were systematically destroyed. It was dangerous to suffer alleged heretics to get the ear of the public. In many cases, all we know, is, that the parties accused denied baptism—generally meaning infant baptism—and sometimes the reasons of that denial are given. The Reformers maintained that faith is necessary to baptism, and that as infants cannot believe they ought not to be baptized. They protested also against the numberless appendages to worship which had been introduced, and the demands made on human credulity, and declared that they would have “the Bible, and the Bible only.” Baptists in all ages and everywhere have taken the same position. It is impregnable.

A large number of them were found among the Waldenses, scattered about on the hills and in the valleys of Piedmont, where they worshipped the Lord, it cannot be doubted, “in the beauty of holiness,” and edified one another, after the manner of primitive believers. Their doctrines, it is stated, “were remarkably identical with those of the apostolic times, and of the earliest fathers of the church. They may be summed up in these few words:—*The absolute authority and inspiration of the Bible—the Trinity in the Godhead—the sinful state of man—and free salvation by Jesus Christ—but above all, faith working by love*” (Muston’s *Israel of the Alps*, i. 20).

In the twelfth century there was a great revival in the South of France. It began under the ministry of Peter of Bruys, of whose previous history we have no authentic accounts. (The Editor of the *Church Chronicle* has made a discovery. He affirms that “the distinctive doctrine” of our denomination “never disturbed the faith of Christendom, until first preached by Peterall Brias, a Frenchman in the twelfth century.” Who “*Peterall Brias*” was neither he nor any one else can tell. Somebody has hoaxed him.)—He starts up all at once as an itinerant preacher, and appears to have been gifted with extraordinary eloquence, if we may judge from the effects of his preaching, as described by Roman Catholic writers. The people flocked by thousands to hear him, and those who received the truth were baptized, and formed into religious Societies, that is, into Baptist churches. This went on for twenty years. It was like a chapter in the Acts of the Apostles. “The word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in