

cept of reasoning in opposition to plainly and solemnly ordained usages and sacred institutes.

I am willing, brother Allen, to give to your reasoning all due regard, and I have no doubt but what you have written is as much to the purpose as any man can adduce; but you will see that while we equally agree that the strongest evidence which can be adduced ought to be demanded, the only question of moment is, What is the strongest evidence?

I will admit that if there is any ground to suspect the sincerity of the applicant, or any intimation of any improper motive impelling him to solicit the ordinance, I would sift him to the bottom, and on suspicious evidence, say to him, Go and bring forth fruits worthy of your profession. But where there is no ground of suspicion, and the person freely comes forward and solicits baptism upon a solemn declaration of what the eunuch professed, I would say nothing should hinder his baptism, and no experience be inquired after. A person can have little or no christian experience until he is born of water as well as of the Spirit; and it does appear to me preposterous to demand the experience of a christian from a person who has not yet put on Christ, not dead to sin, nor buried, nor risen with Christ. When a person has come out of the bath of regeneration, and has been born of the Spirit and the water, we look for the experience of a christian; but it will take more logic than all the colleges in your state possess, to persuade me it is reasonable to demand a narrative of christian experience from a person who has never publicly confessed the Lord Jesus, nor assumed his name. Yours, most affectionately,

EDITOR.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM BALLANTINE, an aged and venerable president of the church of Christ, in Philadelphia—one of the most learned and amiable of the advocates of the ancient faith—after a long and painful illness, which he bore with christian fortitude and resignation, fell asleep in the hope of immortality on the morning of the 4th day of January last, 1836,

He was well known in England, Scotland, and Ireland, as a laborious minister among the Independents and Scotch Baptists; and for some years after his arrival in this country he labored amongst the Baptists of Pennsylvania. But a few years since, becoming acquainted with the principles of the present reformation, he cordially embraced them, and gave them not only his cordial suffrages but, to the utmost of his ability, laboured in the cause. He was eminently skilled in the original tongues, a most excellent lecturer on language and the Holy Scriptures; and we trust that the seed, which he has scattered in a long life devoted to the Lord, will result