

presbyteries an absolute power over their communicants, but reserved the last appeal to themselves, neither the Scots nor English Presbyterians would accept it.

The English Presbyterians, having resolved to stand and fall with the Scots, refused peremptorily to comply with the ordinance, relying upon the assistance and support of that nation.

It was a sanguine and daring attempt of these divines, who were called together only for their advice, to examine and censure the ordinances of parliament, and dispute in this manner with their superiors; the commons, alarmed at this petition, appointed a committee to take into consideration the matter and manner of it; who, after some time, reported it as their opinion, that the assembly of divines, in their petition, had broken the privileges of parliament, and were guilty of a *præsumptio*; and whereas they insisted so peremptorily on the *jus divinum* of the Presbyterian government, the committee had drawn up certain queries, which they desired the assembly might resolve for their satisfaction. The house agreed to the report of the committee, and on the 30th of April, sent Sir John Evelin, Mr. Nathaniel Fiennes, and Mr. Browne, to the assembly, to acquaint them with their resolutions. These gentlemen set before them their rash and imprudent conduct, and in several speeches, showed wherein they had exceeded their province, which was to advise the house in such points as they should lay before them, but not to dictate to those to whom they owed their being an assembly.

THE BAPTISTS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

THEIR DOCTRINES AND POLICY.

A dozen years since, I dedicated a few letters to a Baptist minister of this Province. His brethren considered him an educated, devout, distinguished man. Under the same impression, I sought the eyes and ears of his friends and admirers through his name and influence. His especial friends considered my letters impertinent; although to this day, I have neither found nor heard of the individual, that could specify a thought or sentence worthy of that designation! The only talent disclosed, in the ostensible notices of these letters, was that of keeping my letters, and our sentiments, from the attention of the Baptists. But there were some intelligent minds that *did* consider both sides; and the influence of the truth was felt: I did not know, until seven years after, how great the influence exerted by means so simple. Had I been aware of the fact, these feeble efforts would have been followed up hopefully and with zeal. In some instances, "The Christian" containing those letters, was borrowed by the dignitaries of the Baptist church from steamboat captains; and on another occasion one hundred copies were destroyed between here and Fredricton, and a letter appended to the package afterwards picked up, in the gutters of our now renowned Episcopal city! Others