

## THE "REV." MR. SLEEP.

WE regret that a sense of duty requires us to bring this gentleman's name before the public. Private offences and personal injuries call for an application of the Saviour's rule—"go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone." Neither of us, however, may consider our relationship to be that which the Saviour recognizes in his instructions, and consequently the command not applicable to us. This, at all events, is the case with ourself, and, therefore, claim as a right the privilege of canvassing the conduct of public men, and their measures so far as they are concerned with the cause we plead.

This gentleman preaches occasionally in the western part of Cornwallis. By some means several numbers of "The Christian" got into the hands of an individual—a member of his flock. The *ninth* number of the first volume pretty nearly made a finish of this person's foundation for sprinkling and pouring, and the article in the *first* number of the second volume, on being "born of water and Spirit," caused him seriously to inquire whether he had indeed ever experienced the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit. The doubts in his mind having arisen to such a height that he called to his aid Mr. Sleep. The number containing the last mentioned article was put into his hands. The next Lord's day he preached on the subject. The person who communicated the above information did not distinctly say what construction he put on our Lord's words; but he said Mr. Sleep very roundly asserted that being born of water did not refer to immersion or baptism in any way! After he had dismissed his congregation he called some friends around him, and with "The Christian" in his hand, gave them his reasons for speaking on the subject which had been laid before them. He then read the article to which we refer, and also several pages of manuscript which he had prepared as a reply to or criticism on the same. He also told his hearers that he should furnish the editor of "The Christian" with the article for publication.

During our late visit to Nova Scotia, this intelligence was communicated with the inquiry, why the article had not appeared in "The Christian." We, therefore, embrace this opportunity to say that nothing of the kind has yet been received. If our informant gave us correct information, the gentleman's pledge is yet unredeemed.

Mr. Sleep's plan would, perhaps, have been well for himself and cause, had we never heard of it; for then the people would be left with this impression, "the editor of 'The Christian' has declared to the world that he is ready and willing to discuss on his pages all subjects connected with his faith and practice; and here is a point which he declares he considers of the greatest importance, and yet is unwilling to publish Mr. Sleep's article, or even to inform his readers that such a communication had been received!"

If this gentleman will attempt to oppose that article, we shall show him that he is not only opposed to his leader, the "Venerable Wesley," but also to the word of God, and nearly all the commentators of note who have written on the subject.

EDITOR.