

## XXIV.—THE IMMERSIONIST CREED INCONSISTENT AND NARROW.

98. Wherein does the immersionist creed agree with, and differ from, that of the Christian Church generally?

They agree in affirming that by baptism we are initiated into the visible church of Christ. The immersionist creed differs from all others in affirming that no person should be baptized but a believing adult, and that there is no baptism without immersion.

99. What is the logical inference deducible from the dogma of the immersionists?

If the immersionist creed were true, there never has been a visible Church of Christ on the earth except Baptist churches. All those in other churches who were faithful followers of Christ, and who nobly served their Master, and who triumphed over sin and over the world through faith, and whose robes were washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb, have been *stamped by the immersionist creed with the brand of excommunication*; for, says that creed, they were too early brought to Christ if they were brought when little children, and they never received baptism if they were not immersed. A creed which inevitably excludes such persons from the visible Church, is manifestly inconsistent and narrow.

100. Has the peculiar doctrine of the immersionists been believed by any considerable portion of the Christian Church?

Only a small fraction of the Christian Church ever believed their dogma. The great body of divines who have been eminent for piety and learning and genius, and whose writings have graced the literature of the ages, has been radically opposed to the peculiar doctrine of the immersionists—namely, that only adults should be baptized, and that there is no baptism without immersion.

101. Is the immersionist creed in accordance with the genius of Christianity?

The immersionist creed is antagonistic to the genius of

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