

THE "FUTURE" OF THE BAPTISTS.

"THERE is a future for the Baptists." These were the words of the celebrated Dr. Krummacher, on occasion of a visit from two English Baptist Ministers (Revds. Dr. Steane and J. H. Hinton,) in the autumn of 1851. They are powerfully suggestive.

What has been the "Past" of the Baptists? Is not the record highly instructive and encouraging? It tells of uncompromising adherence to the word of God, in opposition to all traditional pretences. It tells of reverential obedience to the Saviour's commands, disclaiming the power to add, alter, or omit, and honouring the sole supremacy of the Great Head of the church. It tells of consistent and continuous pleading for spiritual, personal religion—the individual, voluntary surrender of the heart to God, in repentance and faith, testified by the public profession. It tells of communities of baptized believers, constituted according to the laws of the Saviour, regulating their worship and government by those laws, and aiming to exemplify the spirit of Christianity in the service of their Master. It tells of gospel truths for which they did "earnestly contend," and of precious promises by which they were comforted. It tells of their struggles for freedom—their assertion of man's inalienable right to think and act for himself, in matters of religion—and their disclaimer of human authority and power in that connection, as opposed to the just demands of the most High, and the sole responsibility of intelligent beings to himself. It tells of their indignant protest against the usurpations of earthly govern-