

the following effect :—"It was unanimously agreed that the thanks of Synod be tendered to Dr. McCulloch for his conduct in the chair, and for the excellent and most appropriate sermon delivered last evening, and to request its publication." That request is now complied with, and as the author publishes at his own expense, we trust that a ready sale will prevent pecuniary loss.—The discourse is full of thought, eminently suggestive, and could proceed only from an ardent lover of Zion. It is neatly and accurately printed, the only exception we noticed being the word "purely" for "purity" in page 9, at the commencement of section 3.

SCRIPTURE BAPTISM—ITS MODE AND SUBJECT.

This is the title of a tractate of 113 pages, by the Rev. Isaac Murray, Covenish, P. E. I. It was prepared, Mr. Murray informs us, by request, in answer to a pamphlet on Baptism published by a Baptist Clergyman. It is, therefore, in defence of the truth that he has written. In answering an opponent, he could not altogether avoid the controversial style which appears here and there throughout his work. This may in the estimation of some persons, detract from the excellence of the pamphlet; they dislike anything controversial. But controversy is necessary sometimes, and it is right. We must contend for the truth, and controvert error. That is what Mr. Murray has done; and with the exception of a few words, there are in his work, no indications of the bitter spirit, that not unfrequently pervades controversial writings. He seeks truth and not victory, and deals with his subject and not merely with his opponent. No one can read this pamphlet without feeling that it is the production of a clear, vigorous and thoughtful mind; one who is master of his subject. Mr. Murray acknowledges his indebtedness to several authors, especially to Dr. Dale on "Classic Baptisms," whom he quotes at some length; but his pamphlet is no mere reproduction of other men's labours, it evinces research, learning, and original thought. From Mr. Murray's previous

writings on this subject, we were quite prepared as we opened this work, to expect something worthy of careful perusal; but we hardly expected to find so much excellent matter, some of which was new to us, as we are sure much of it will be to the bulk of the readers of the *Record*. We have read a good deal on the subject of Baptism, but we are free to say that we have not often met with so much plain, satisfactory argument in so brief a compass.

In the first 50 pages, he discusses the mode of Baptism. In meeting the argument for immersion that is founded on the classic use of the word *baptizo*, we think his reasoning is most conclusive. He shews clearly that the verb does not express any specific action, but relates to a change of condition in the object baptized.

After devoting a few pages to show that leading Baptist writers, are not agreed among themselves, as to the meaning of this word, nay, that they contradict each other, and involve the question in confusion, Mr. Murray enters upon the consideration of the "washings" of the Old and New Testament, and makes it clear that sprinkling or pouring, was the customary mode. We are particularly pleased with his exposition of Romans 6: 4-6,—a passage that Baptists regard as one of their strongholds, and one which when superficially read, seems to favour their mode. A correct understanding of it, however, shews that the idea of immersion must have been far enough from the Apostle's mind, when he penned the argument of which these verses form a part. No one can peruse Mr. Murray's exposition without seeing that if the passage teaches anything at all about the mode of baptism, it favours pouring or sprinkling; but Dr. Hodge, says that "the reference is not to the mode but to the effects of baptism. Our baptism unites to the Church, so that we died with him and rose with him."

The second part of Mr. Murray's pamphlet treats of the subject of baptism; and this we believe is the important point. Who have a right to this ordinance? Our Baptist brethren say, believers only, believing