

ADVERTISEMENT.

It may be proper before the attention of the reader is directed to the following pages, to apprize him of the circumstance by which they were occasioned. On the 10th of September, 1831, I arrived at St. John, and, ere I had been long in the city, was recommended to read a pamphlet on Baptism, by Doctor BURNS. Having been assured that the subject was impartially considered, and that nothing offensive was displayed, I expected a perusal would be accompanied with pleasure. But alas! not far had I proceeded before meeting with passages which I could reconcile neither with charity or truth, my mind recoiled with pain and disgust.—Passages, referring rather to the Baptists than to their particular opinions; tending more to depreciate the former, than to refute or elucidate the latter. I thought of writing a reply, but waived the design, after reading a review of the pamphlet in the Baptist Magazine. Being called, however, to preach on the subject, I announced my intention of noticing the pamphlet in the pulpit. This I did, with a particular reference to some glaring misrepresentations of the Baptists. The sermon produced a powerful effect. Some persons troubled with the *cacoethes scribendi*, stormed the sermon in the city journals with remarks, which made as much impression as snow upon the rock. My continuance in St. John being uncertain, and not wishing to appear in the armour of a disputant, I thought it advisable to take no further notice of the subject; a change, however, in my circumstances, occasioning me to reside longer in the city, afforded the opportunity which I now embrace—of presenting the substance of the sermon in the following pages.

THE reader must not expect the regular order of a sermon, as this is designedly abandoned, for a fuller examination of the subject. The text was from Isaiah 24, 5,—“They have changed the ordinance.” The positions of the sermon were—*The ordinance of Baptism is changed, both as to the mode and subjects, either by the Baptists or Pædo-Baptists—To change an ordinance is injurious to the church of the Redeemer—To change an ordinance impugns the authority of Christ, and is offensive to God.*