

THE  
CHRISTIAN BANNER.

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God."  
"This is love, that we walk after his commandments."

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THE BAPTISTS--THEIR DOCTRINES AND POLICY--NO. IV.

How small the proportion of the Baptists have a remote idea of the doctrine held by their teachers! This will be deemed a most extravagant assertion. And, as people generally are much more displeased with you for calling them fools than knaves, no thanks are anticipated for the remark, that few of the laity understand the doctrines, even, of their favorite clergy. But it is nevertheless the case. And, he who reveals to them the difference between clerical and metaphysical doctrines and the doctrine of the ambassadors of Jesus, ought to be esteemed a kind friend. Count me not an enemy because I tell you the truth! Does the common sense, pious Baptist ever imagine that the Holy Spirit regenerated him—that he was *born again before he believed in Jesus with all his heart*? I have yet to become acquainted with the first intelligent man who believes this doctrine, or is disposed to defend such an opinion. And yet it is the doctrine called evangelical. [I write from home and without my books; but if this assertion is questioned the proof is abundant; it shall be forthcoming.] But I have Mr. Robinson's letters before me. [*Banner*, page 124.] Hear him: "Does Mr. Campbell or Mr. Eaton," enquires he, "in their writings teach that the Holy Spirit works a saving change in the heart, before baptism; and, that *faith and repentance* are the *effects* of that change? And that change is the *new birth*, or being born again? If so, our views are alike, &c." Here is the doctrine clearly asserted. Right or wrong, one of the teachers in their Israel asserts it; and no one can accuse him with broaching a doctrine either new or original. Andrew Fuller, or some other standard Baptist theologian, must have taught the doctrine or the cautious, politic Mr. Robinson would not have committed himself to its defense! Will the reader just ponder the doctrine asserted? Hear it; "the Holy Spirit works a saving change in the heart—that change is the new birth, or being born again—and FAITH AND REPENT-