

THE NATURE, &c. OF BAPTISM.

THAT the baptism of water as well as the baptism of the Holy Ghost, is a Christian doctrine, has been admitted by the whole Christian Church, from the beginning, with very few exceptions. But, What is baptism? What is its mode? Who are its proper subjects? And, What is its design? are questions on which much diversity of opinion has prevailed. These questions we shall briefly consider.

Baptism, in the New Testament is used for *immersion*, *effusion*, and *sprinkling*.

The word sometimes signifies *Immersion* or *Dipping*. Thus it is to be understood in Mark, vii. 4. "The *washing* of Cups and Pots;" the original word signifies the baptism of Cups, &c. These are dipped into the water, and not merely sprinkled with it. Thus too, some have supposed Luke, xi. 38. is to be understood. "He marvelled that he had not first *washed* before dinner." If this washing, or baptism, refer to the hands only, then certainly it includes the idea of dipping; but if it refer to the face, as well as the hands, then it cannot be so understood, unless we suppose the Pharisees were in the habit of dipping their faces into the water, a