

Priest Power and Baptismal Regeneration Judged by their Results.

BY REV. E. M. SAUNDERS, D. D. REPLY TO REV. MR. PARKINSON, EPISCOPAL

I am happy to state, that in the character and spirit of Mr. Parkinson, I see nothing but the best result of the purest orthodoxy. It is not an uncommon thing for natural excellency and divine grace to produce fine Christian characters in spite of wrong beliefs held by their possessors.

His letter contains many points to which I would like to reply; but newspaper space is not sufficient for this. As to whether the doctrine of priest power and baptismal regeneration are Roman Catholic doctrines; whether infant baptism would put Christians in a position inferior to that of Jewish babies, whether John the Baptist taught baptismal regeneration; whether the people of England were Roman Catholics up to the time of King Henry the VIII; whether the church of England is from a schism of the Roman Catholic church; whether the scriptures teach that there are two or three orders in the ministry; whether the doctrine of the High Church party prepare the way to Rome; or not—these are other points raised in the letter in question would be interesting subjects for examination, but neither time nor space will admit of it.

I am not now discussing the question as to whether sprinkling, pouring or immersion is the scriptural mode of baptism; nor even whether infant baptism is a doctrine of the Bible. I am regarding priest power and the dogma of baptismal regeneration, as taught by the High Church party of the English Episcopate, the Roman Catholic and Greek churches. Successors of the apostles, so called, baptized each generation of the Italians for fourteen hundred years. That is to say, by excluding priest power in baptism, the babes of every generation of this nation have been made members of Christ, children of God and inheritors of the kingdom of heaven.

These precious priests who held in their keeping the welfare of the people, specific generations took much pains not to let appear hinder their good work of making their fellow men Christians. They of course adopted special Christian missions to those who would free from the hateful work of those who did not think that priest power and baptismal regeneration were essential in saving the souls of the people from perdition.

THEY EMPLOYED the thumbs raw, the rack, the gibbet, dark, dark prisons, the stake with about it, and many other kindred Christian agencies, so that they, the successors of the apostles, should not be interfered with in this benevolent work of fitting the people of their generation for the service of Christ on earth, and for heaven and its blessedness in the world to come.

THEY MISSED BEING BAPTIZED. It went into the presence of his Maker and Saviour to find, according to the teachings of the priest, that it was not prepared for the exchange of words, but, if it had only remained a few moments more on this mundane sphere, till the priest had arrived, then he would have fitted its soul for heaven, and its body for Christian burial and a place among the saints in ground consecrated for the flesh and bones of the holy; What a misfortune that the little of life against disease till the priest could have had one minute to prepare its soul for heaven and its body for a Christian grave! How sad the babes here and there expire too soon, and well are not made members of Christ, children of God and inheritors of the kingdom of heaven.

On this side of the Atlantic, priest power, which essays to make nations Christians, by regenerating each generation of infants in the waters of baptism, has produced results that prove its work the same under all skies. Here it is before us—South America, Central America, Mexico and Quebec.

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AN INSULT TO CHRISTIAN INTELLIGENCE.

It is as much, and no more like Christ, than the persecutions of Christians for conscience sake; and it has the same pretence, priestism, and sacramental savouring in the grave. His precious blood to some of infants. They pass from their brief lives on earth to their eternal life in glory.

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SIGHTS AND SOUNDS IN INDIA

For Boys and Girls in Canada.

DEAR GIRLS AND BOYS: This is Saturday morning. Ever since Tuesday night my mind has been fixed on one boy, about eleven years old. I expected this letter would be about our good conference, and the next, about the baptism of a boy, who would have been baptized to-morrow.

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THE PERISHABLE AND THE PERENNIAL.

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