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VIEWS OF BAPTISM BY GERMAN PÆDOBAPTISTS.

No. V.

DR. COLLN.

[This author was, for many years, Professor of Theology in the University of Breslau, where he was highly esteemed for his literary and moral worth. As a writer he is known chiefly from his very useful edition of *Müncher's Lehrbuch der Dogmengeschichte*, which however was unhappily left unfinished owing to his unexpected death; and from his *Biblische Theologie (Biblical Theology)*, published after his death by Dr. Schulz in 2 vols. Leipzig 1836. In this work we have, as the name indicates, a methodical and clear statement of the theology, which the author believed to be taught in the Scriptures. And though his representations of Divine truth may appear occasionally unsound, yet there can be no doubt that this is the proper way to theologize. True theology must be founded on the sacred books, and not on the creed or system of a sect. Yet strange to tell, no English divine has ever published a *Biblical Theology*, written professedly and in reality without any reference to a catechism, a creed, or a confession. We have bodies of divinity in great variety, but the evident labor in them all, is to support a class of preconceived tenets by real or sham proofs from Scripture, instead of giving methodically the results of a thorough and independ-

dent examination of the holy volume. Of this bastard theology we have examples in Pearson's Exposition of the Creed, and Ridgley's Body of Divinity founded on the Westminster Confession. Such works may indeed be valued in many respects; but it is evident they are calculated to strengthen attachment to human systems, rather than to promote a free and thorough investigation of Scripture. It is true that this freedom of research may, when not accompanied by "a good and honest heart," lead to lamentable and even fatal errors in religion; but it is as certain that the opposite mode of theologizing is a prolific source of superstition, prejudice, and bigotry, whilst it gives no security against ruinous mistakes.

As Dr. Colln's plan was to derive his theology directly from the Bible, without at all regarding the Pædobaptist creed of his church, it must be interesting to our readers to know what were his views of baptism. And certainly it can surprise no one, that the result was unfavorable to the practice of infant sprinkling. The following extracts will show, at what conclusions the learned author arrived by means of free scriptural inquiry.—Ed.]

[*Baptism as instituted by Christ.*]
Baptism was intended as an outward