

a portable vessel of brass, which stood on one foot. Did he, suppose ye, immerse the "tables," or couches or beds in the vessel? or did he, with the bunch of hyssop, sprinkle them? "The blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer *sprinkling* the unclean, sanctified to the purifying of the flesh," Heb. ix. 13. The temple baptisms were a sprinkling with blood, oil, ashes and water. Supposing, then, that the "cups and pots, and brazen vessels," were ceremonially wetted, washed, purified, by plunging them into the mixture, yet this could not be the case with the tables, or couches, and even with the smaller vessels it would be easier to "sprinkle" for purification than to dip. When I say that the word "baptize" does not mean any particular mode of wetting, but the result itself, I do not mean that the form of Christian baptism is of no consequence: my design is only to shew, that though it is proper to follow the Scripture examples, and though one mode may be more significant, and more edifying than another, yet that the mode is not *essential* to the solemnity, that baptism is wetting by one mode or another, and *Christian baptism* is wetting for the purpose of a believing dedication to the Trinity. But

II. THERE IS NOTHING OBLIGATORY IN IMMERSION, AS THE MODE OF BAPTISM. I say obligatory, in distinction from essential, of which I have already spoken; and I select "immersion" rather than any other unsuitable mode of baptism, because *that* in distinction from every other form, is urged by those who object to "sprinkling" or pouring. It is represented as essential to baptism at all, as the kind of baptism which Christ received and appointed, as expressive of the truth of which the ordinance is the memorial—as in fact, the *only* form of Christian baptism. It is paraded as an act of exemplary self-denial on the part of the recipient, and he is sent away as having done "some great thing," and distinguished himself from other Christians. Not unfrequently surrounding followers of Christ are bantered as refusing to be immersed merely from a want of courage, they are dared to come and be immersed. There are *sung at them* the lines,

"Ashamed of Jesus! sooner far
Let evening blush to own a star," &c.