

the ministry, &c. These things would not be tolerated in England. They are regarded by English Baptists as incompatible with Christian liberty.

When Baptists affirm that in things sacred they are "governed by the Bible, and nothing but the Bible," they evidently refer to those matters in which the Scriptures have given us plain precept or precedent. The Saviour has not thought fit to burden us with minute directions. We are furnished with general principles, partially illustrated by example, and we are to apply them, as cases arise, in harmony with the spirit of the gospel and the design of the Christian constitution. But we must avoid all tendency to infringement on freedom, assumption of power, or requisition of uniformity — *Ed. Register.*]

### WATER AS A BEVERAGE.

WATER is the natural and proper drink of man. Indeed it is the grand beverage of organized nature. It enters largely into the composition of the blood and juices of animals and plants; it forms an important ingredient in their organized structures, and bears a fixed and unalterable relation to their whole vital economy. It was the only beverage of the human family in their primitive state.

In that garden where grew "every tree pleasant to the sight and good for food," producing all the richness and variety of "fruit and flower" which an omnipotent and all bountiful Creator could adapt to the relish of his senses, and the exigencies of his entire organization; it cannot for a moment be doubted that man was in a condition, the best suited to secure him an uninterrupted, as well as the highest and best exercise and enjoyment, of his physical, mental, and moral powers. His drink was water. A river flowed from Paradise. From the moment that river began to "water the garden" till the present time, no human invention has equalled this simple beverage; and all the attempts to improve it by the admixture of other substances, whether alcoholic, narcotic, or aromatic, have wholly failed, but have served to deteriorate or poison it, and render it less healthful and safe.

Water is as well adapted to man's natural appetite as to the physical wants of his organs. A natural thirst, and the pleasures derived from its gratification were given us to secure to the vital machinery the supply of liquid necessary to its healthy movements. When this natural thirst occurs, no drink tastes so good, and in truth none is so good as water; none possesses adaptations so exact to the vital necessities of the organs. So long as a fresh supply of liquid is not needed, so long as there is not the least relish for water, it offers no temptation, while its addition to the circulating fluids would be useless, or hurtful.—*Extract.*

ASSOCIATE BAPTISTS OF NEW BRUNSWICK.—From the minutes of the associations just published, we learn that there are in the Province 67 churches, 46 ordained and 17 unordained Ministers, and 4823 members. There have been, during the associate year, in all the churches 264 immersions and many added by letter; but death, exclusions, and dismissions, have reduced the net increase, of the entire body, to 97.

*Minutes of the Montreal Baptist Association:*—11 Churches; 545 members; increase during the year 18; decrease 48.