

tion, still, it cannot be denied that those honoured persons themselves, had as great a sense of delicacy as we have; and therefore there is a little obstacle to the admission of the idea, that they, without any of the cautionary inventions of more recent times, *plunged under water* all the women who believed their report.

If John the Baptist was a person of like infirmities with other men, it is demonstrably impossible, that in the space of six months, he could have dipped such vast multitudes as, in that period, the sacred narrative represents him to have baptized. "There went out to him," we have seen, "Jerusalem and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan and *were baptized* of him." "Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also being baptized," &c. Luke iii: 21. It is an admitted fact that as John was a priest, he entered on the exercise of his sacred office at the age of thirty. He was six months older than our Lord, of whom it is said that he was baptized, 'when he began to be about thirty years of age': therefore the Baptist could not have been engaged in preaching to the people, and baptizing them more than about six months. Take the population of the country surrounding the scene of his ministry at the very moderate estimate of 2,000,000, and suppose that John baptized but the *tenth* of them,— "to have accomplished this, he must have stood in the water twelve hours every day for six months, Sabbaths excepted, and have dipped over head and ears, and pulled up again 1,290 between the rising and setting sun—about 107 every hour—and nearly 2 every minute. The difficulty of doing this must be apparent on more accounts than one:—His garments must have rotted—his saturated flesh must have peeled from his bones—and the cold water must, without a miracle have caused a fatal rush of blood to his head."\*

Our opponents are exceedingly pressed, or rather *oppressed* with the difficulties, attendant on the *immersion* of the three thousand converts on the day of Pentecost. After their modest demands *in forma pauperis*, as to premises wholly destitute of scriptural support, they give a most singular account of the matter, to which, however, all their ingenuity has failed to impart the shadow of verisimilitude. Mr. Crawley, of all the Baptist writers, decidedly bears away the palm in settling this matter: according to him thirty minutes are quite sufficient for the *immersion* and *emersion* of 3,000 persons under the circumstances in which the Apostles

\*Thorn's Modern Immersion, p. 293.