

5. Others contend that the blessings conferred on us at our Baptism are only outward and nominal. More than once have we been deeply grieved to hear one who had sacrilegiously allowed herself to be immersed, having been previously truly baptised, flippantly remark, "but I dont consider Baptism a saving ordinance," forgetting that the Scripture says that "Baptism doth now save us." But surely when people argue that a divinely instituted sacrament is only an outward thing, it is to turn the whole matter into a solemn farce and foolish ceremony. What would be said if a ceremony were appointed for giving a man great gifts and large estates of this world only outwardly and nominally not in reality? Would it not be at once felt to be a ridiculous ceremony? What respect should we have for the wisdom of him that appointed it? Even so, to suppose that when God was manifest in the

flesh, He instituted the sacrament of Baptism to convey to men certain gifts only outwardly and nominally and not really, is to entertain the most unworthy thoughts of the divine wisdom and goodness, and to turn the sacrament of Christ into a barren and foolish ceremony, for in that case it is really worth nothing. In that case it might very well have that name of *Water Baptism* which is so contemptuously applied to it by some, a name which might perhaps have been properly given to the Baptism of John, but which ought never to be applied to the Baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ, except by the infidel or the blasphemers.

In another paper we shall conclude our notice of the popular objections to the true doctrine of Christian Baptism, as taught by the Holy Scriptures and held by the Church of England.

#### DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY.

**T**HE usual meetings of the General Committee of the Diocesan Church Society were held at Fredericton on the fourth and fifth days of July, previous to the anniversary meeting, which was held in the Council Chamber on Thursday evening, July 6, presided over by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor. A report of the annual meeting, and the minutes of Committee, will be found on another page. Our object in noticing the meeting in this place, is to call attention to the present relations of this diocese with the Society for Propagating the Gospel, and to the changes which are about to take place in those matters.

It is well known that since the foundation of this province, the Propagation Society has contributed largely towards the support of the clergy. How far it was desirable or wise to do so in those cases where there was a sufficient number of Church people to sustain the ministrations of religion among themselves, we need not now stop to inquire. It is sufficient to say that since 1834 there has been taking place a gradual reduction in the stipends of all clergymen who were placed on the Society's list, while many of the cures, especially in the towns, have

been left quite without help from the Society for Propagating the Gospel. About five or six years ago the Propagation Society proposed to the Diocesan Church Society, through the Bishop, to pay their various grants to clergymen in one large sum, which the Treasurer of the Diocesan Church Society would draw, and distribute among the clergy. This block sum it was intended should be decreased at the rate of £100 per annum. A similar arrangement was proposed to the dioceses of Montreal and Nova Scotia, and gladly accepted by them, and an effort made in each case to provide a general endowment, to take the place of the Society for Propagating the Gospel on the total cessation of their grant. To a very great extent these efforts have been, we are happy to say, crowned with success.

In this diocese, owing to causes which need not be here recorded, the scheme of a diocesan endowment was not adopted by the members of the Church generally. And through some misunderstanding, the subject of the Propagation Society's letter was allowed to stand over, without any definite action being taken. But last year, shortly before the annual meeting of the Church Society, his lordship the