

THE ADVISER.

"LIGHT AND LOVE."

VOL. III.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1865.

NO. 7.

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FIRST PRINCIPLES.

The knowledge of remission of sins is the subject of enquiry just now. First, we ask where does forgiveness take place? In our own hearts or in heaven? Most assuredly in heaven. It is not something that we know by a mere feeling of our hearts or an impulse of our mind. More reasonable would it be for us to try to find out what are the feelings or what is the mind of God than to examine our *own* feelings or hearts upon the subject. How are we to find out or ascertain the mind of Jehovah? We answer, by *His words*. And as we live in these "last days," at the commencement of which, the Most High spoke to us by His Spirit through the Apostles of the Lamb. To their testimony we appeal, to know the truth upon this most serious and solemn question. God promises pardon, remission or forgiveness upon certain terms or conditions. Some say only faith; but we ask for the *testi-*

mony of the Spirit that a man is forgiven without repentance. Peter said "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins," &c., 2nd Acts. Again, "Repent ye therefore and be converted (turned to the Lord) that your sins may be blotted out," &c., Acts 3. But do we not see that the Apostle connects *baptism* with repentance, Acts 2, 37, and as it is impossible to please God without faith (Heb. 11,) therefore faith, repentance and baptism all stand connected. And while the scriptures teach us that baptism brings the penitent, praying believer *into Christ*, Romans 6, and Gal. 3. Yet without faith, repentance and a heart disposed to pray and love the Saviour it is valueless,—of no avail whatever.

Now, if the Lord has promised pardon to the children of men, we ought to know the terms or conditions, Mark 16, 16. "He that believeth (the gospel) and is baptized shall be saved," Luke 24, 4. Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem," John 20, 23. "Whoever sins you (Apostles) remit they are remitted unto them, and whosoever sins you retain they are retained," Acts 16, 3. "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord and to all that were in his house, and he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes, and was baptized, he and all his, straightway," Acts 22, 16. "And now why tarriest thou, arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins calling upon the name of the Lord," Acts 10, 42. "To Him give all the prophets witness that *through His name* whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of their sins." These, with many other passages teach us that whoever believes with all the heart, repents,