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P R E F A C E .

THE writer of the following pages has not the vanity to presume, that the Antipedo-Baptists will be induced to change their sentiments and their practice, on the subject of Infant Baptism, merely by the force of any thing they are to read in these sheets. They have repeatedly withstood the force of much better treatises. His efforts are, therefore, not so much directed to influence them, as to furnish the members of his own communion with a few arguments and proofs from the Holy Scriptures, in support of what they believe and practice, as a divine ordinance.

To our Antipedo-Baptist brethren I frankly and cordially allow as much liberty to express their sentiments as I claim myself. They state and publish their views freely and boldly, in regard both to the sentiments which they hold and the practice which they follow, and are never at a loss to give their opinion of our principles and practice. To this I have no manner of objection. All I ask is, that they allow me the same privilege.

Now, according to them the Abrahamic Covenant embraced only carnal ordinances and carnal promises, having no more respect to the Gospel Dispensation than as mere carnal types, much in the same way as the Land of Canaan was a type of the heavenly inheritance ; that the Greek words *Baptismos* and *Baptizo* have but one unvaried meaning, which they aver is immersion ; that the baptism of infants is a human device, founded on human tradition, and, therefore, so far from being of any use, that it is only a corruption of a solemn Gospel ordinance. They urge these views with indefatigable industry and perseverance. But so far as they have been successful, in the propagation of these their peculiar tenets, the writer of these pages conscientiously believes that they have so far nullified the covenant of grace.

Believing that the subject is of great importance, and that error at the threshold of Christianity, which is Baptism, must have a fatal influence on all the articles of our faith, I have honestly and faithfully made my appeal to the Holy Scriptures for information on the subject of Baptism. To them have appealed, with, I trust, sincere prayer to the Father of Lights for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, without reference to fallible controversialists, as the sole ground and authority of this, and every ordinance, which lays claim to a divine institution