

CHAPTER II.

THE NATURE OF THE NEW BIRTH.

THE Saviour's words fell on heavy ears. Not the faintest idea of the truth He uttered passed through the mind of Nicodemus; for, supposing our Lord to be speaking of a physical birth, he asks with astonishment: "How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb and be born?" To this the Redeemer makes the memorable reply: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of WATER and of THE SPIRIT, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Our first enquiry therefore must be:—What did our Lord mean by the expression

BORN OF WATER?

Water occurs in Scripture as signifying the perfect washing which Christ effects in the soul, including not only His purgation of our