

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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CONDUCTED BY W. W. EATON.

Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.—*Peter*. On this Rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.—*The Lord Messiah*.

## REGENERATION.—LETTER FROM M. WINANS.

JANESTOWN, OHIO, 7TH OCTOBER, 1840.

Dear Brother Eaton,—Had I never seen any other account of you than that given in the "Christian Messenger," by Samuel Robinson, I should have been led to believe that you practised baptism upon men, like sheep shearers practice upon sheep—without letting them know any thing of the design. He represents you as baptizing men who are ignorant of the resurrection of Christ, and who have not repented or prayed. In short, he represents you as baptizing men without faith, and consequently without repentance or prayer, for "how can a man call on him of whom he hath not heard?"

If the Baptist Teachers and Preachers of the British dominions in North America are as ignorant of what the Apostles teach, as they are of what A. Campbell and others, including yourself, teach, it is no wonder they represent the Apostles as teaching regeneration by the Spirit, in order to Faith.

These Teachers generally confound regeneration and the new-birth; they seem not to know that generation must necessarily precede a birth, and in like manner that regeneration must precede a re-birth. By regeneration they mean the new-birth, and in this their error consists. If they were to teach that which I conceive to be regeneration in its proper sense, as preceding faith, I think none would object. I will therefore define regeneration.

1. The Holy Spirit dictated the word to Apostles and Prophets.
2. These Apostles and Prophets proclaimed the word to men.
3. The word, when understood, is retained in the mind—then they are impregnated by the word of truth, and being thus impregnated, they are begotten of the Spirit by the word, which is, properly speaking, regeneration.

The effects of this regeneration is—1st, Faith; 2d, Reformation of life, and 3dly, Baptism—thence they are born again, and not till then.

The whole process being finished, they are then manifested in the visible kingdom or church of God. Faith is an effect of regeneration, just as quickening is an effect of generation; and repentance is an ef-