

## P R E F A C E .

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A MORE perfect argument upon the subject of the following discourse is to be found in the admirable works of the Rev. WILLIAM GRAY, of St. John, and the Rev. JAMES ROBERTSON, of Bridgetown; and to them I refer the reader, who would "prove all things and hold fast that which is good;" to scholars and to men of leisure they furnish an unanswerable defence of Infant Baptism. But, logical investigation and massive argument are offered in vain to the uneducated and laboring poor; while the doctrines of the fathers and the practices of antiquity are alike undervalued and disallowed by those who are in error upon the subject. Either of these books, abridged and simplified by their able authors, would supersede the necessity of the present undertaking; the object of which is to set before the unlearned inquirer the true doctrine of the initiatory sacrament, and to vindicate the practice of the Church by the alone evidence of the sacred Scriptures. I have strictly confined myself to the one great doctrine of Infant Baptism, and have purposely avoided the dispute upon IMMERSION, the Shibboleth of the Baptists; and upon the necessary qualification of the baptizer. But, I will here state that I am fully persuaded that the spirit of the commandment is fulfilled either by affusion or sprinkling—each and all being practised in the Church; nor can