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Baptists. And we can form some conception of their numbers about the middle of the ninth century, from the fact that the Empress Theodora put one hundred thousand of them to death, in Asia alone. It is true that some smaller sects, who held unsound doctrines, were at various times, confounded with the Paulicians. But the great mass were simple minded, godly people. It is evident, says Mosheim, "that they rejected the baptism of infants." Dr. Allix says: "they were anabaptists, or rejectors of infant baptism; and were consequently often reproached with that term." It would be easy to show that each of the sects, already mentioned, was connected historically with the other. There have then been from the first, *many* witnesses in favour of Baptist principles. The various sects who were called by the general name of Albigenses, were rejectors of infant baptism, most of them were Baptists, and they numbered, in the various Kingdoms of Europe, about the year 1160, 300,000 professed communicants! The terrible persecutions, by which this interesting people were destroyed, or scattered and peeled, need not here be named. They were finally nearly all merged into other sects.

The Waldenses, or poor men of Lyons;

— Whose bones

Lie scattered on the Alpine Mountains cold;

were nearly all Baptists, they were at least nearly all rejectors of infant baptism. Their numbers cannot be given very accurately, as they passed by different names in different countries, and were nearly always suffering persecution. About the time of Luther's birth, one of their own members who wrote their history, estimated their number at *three quarters of a million of communicants*. Though this may be deemed a large estimate, it would nevertheless, suggest that their numbers must have been quite large. That they held Baptist sentiments, may be seen from the seventh article of their confession, published in 1554, viz:—

"We believe in the ordinance of baptism, the water is the visible and external sign, which represents to us, that, which by God's invisible operation is within us, namely, the renovation of our minds and the mortification of our members, through the faith of Jesus Christ; and by this ordinance we are received into the holy congregation of God's people, *previously professing and declaring our faith and change of life.*" These views they, in vast numbers, sealed with their blood. Mosheim says, that about the middle of the 16th century, "in almost all the countries of Europe, an *unspeakable number of Baptists* preferred death, in its worst form, to a denial of their sentiments."

These facts suggest to us, that a large portion of all the true,