

CHRISTIAN BANNER.

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God."
"This is love, that we walk after his commandments."

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MENNO SIMON.

Menno was eleven years younger than Luther—brought up like him in the Romanist faith—made in due time a Roman Priest—finally studied the scriptures for himself, and in some particulars escaped a little further from the city of Babylon than the great Luther. After giving a short account of himself as a Priest, he says, in an address to a reader, now before us—

At length I resolved I would examine the New Testament attentively ;—I had not proceeded far therein, ere I discovered that we were deceived. My conscience, which was troubled on account of the sacramental bread, aforementioned, soon obtained relief, without any human aid or advice ; though I was encouraged by Luther in the belief, that human authority cannot bind to eternal death.

Through the illumination and grace of the Lord, I continued daily to examine the scriptures, and was soon considered by some, though undeservedly, as being an Evangelical preacher. Every one sought my company—the world loved me and had my affections, yet it was said that I preached the word of God, and was a clever man.

Afterwards it happened, before I had been aware of the existence of brethren, that a pious, patient man, named Sieke Snyder, was hanged at Leuwarden for having his baptism renewed. It sounded strange to me, to hear a second baptism spoken of. I examined the scriptures, and meditated on them assiduously and earnestly, but could find nothing in them concerning infant baptism. After I had discovered this, I conversed with my pastor on the subject : and after much discussion, we carried it so far that he had to confess, that infant baptism had no scriptural foundation. Notwithstanding all this, I dare not trust my own understanding, but consulted several ancient authors. They taught me that children were to be washed by baptism from their original sin. I compared this doctrine with the scriptures and found that it made baptism take the place of the blood of Christ.

Afterwards, desiring to know the grounds for infant baptism, I