

the household baptisms of Lydia, the jailor, and Stephanas, "In all the histories of those churches which reject infant baptism, not a single case occurs in which this phraseology is used. Hence, a great majority of readers in every age, have actually received the impression from these cases of household baptism, that families containing little children were baptized on the ground of their parents' faith." Dr. Brownlee remarks: "Nothing can be more manifest than these two facts. First, The apostles did practise *family baptism*. Second, The Baptist brethren never do practise *family baptism*! Which of them is the orthodox follower of Christ?" [His own italicising and pointing.]

These extracts are sufficient to show that information is needed on this subject. It is always gratifying to a candid mind to know that what appears true in theory, is confirmed by fact, and we confess that if the doctrine of exclusive believer's baptism were not thus confirmed, our confidence would be shaken. We have, therefore, undertaken the task of collecting a few facts, which we will give below. It may be proper to add, that we have only given the results gathered from documents in our possession, which in most cases contain all the particulars of names, residence, &c. which any one who desires it may freely examine. We will commence with our own churches:—

"There are now eleven whole households of communicants in the First Baptist Church in New Haven, Conn."—*Convert's Guide*, page 116.

The pastor of the Green Street Church, Albany, under date of Feb., 1840, writes, "Last Lord's-day there was baptized into the fellowship of our church a number of whole families, and one family converted among us consists of a father, mother, six daughters, and two nieces, who all go on their way rejoicing."

Says the *Pioneer*, "During a revival in Madison county, Ia., the jailor of the county, and his household, were baptized, th. n., immersed."

Rev. Dr. Kendrick, President of Hamilton Literary and Theological Seminary, New York, has furnished a list of nine household baptisms, with the names and places of residence of each,

in which father, mother, and *all* the children, were baptized into fellowship with Baptist churches; the number of children differing from four to eleven in each family. He adds, "some eight or ten more have been named to me, but I have not the names, and have not added them to the list."

Rev. L. Porter, pastor of the Worthen Street Baptist Church, in Lowell, informs us that there are six families connected with his church, *all* the members of which, varying from four to seven, have been baptized on profession of faith.

In the Boylston Street Church in this city, there are four baptized families.

Rev. John Peak, of this city, has furnished us four instances of families, every member of which had been buried with Christ in baptism on profession of faith. The fathers of two had previously been Congregational ministers.

Rev. W. H. Shailer, of Brookline, has furnished us with four instances.

Rev. O. Ayer, of Littleton, Mass., says; "I baptized within the last year two households, i. e., two men and all their house. I baptized another man and all the members of his household who had not been baptized before."

It may still be asked, Do Baptist missionaries ever baptize whole households? Dr. Wardlaw says, they do not. Dr. Woods asks, "Would any honest and pious missionary, who excludes infants from the ordinance of baptism, and knowing that his practice would form a precedent for those who should follow him, allow such passages (as occur in the Acts of the Apostles in reference to household baptisms) to appear in his published journal? To us it appears perfectly clear that the apostles administered baptism to believers and [to] their households on their account. The writers must have been aware that such would naturally be the inference from their language. Did they design to lead us into error?"

We have not examined our missionary journals very extensively, nor do Baptist missionaries appear to have made much account of facts of this kind, in the short time since their modern missions have been in existence. We will content ourselves, therefore, for the present by placing the following facts by the side of the above statement.