

wise and gracious purposes, to lay upon his church under the old testament a heavy burden of rites and ceremonies. But the Lord Jesus has now come and taken them all away, nailing them to his cross, and giving us the lighter yoke of baptism and the Lord's supper in their stead.—The whole of the ordinances of the sanctuary under the Old Testament may be divided into two kinds. By the first the people of God, were admitted into covenant with him ; by the second that covenant was confirmed and improved. The first was circumcision, the bloody seal or token of the covenant, by which they were formerly admitted into covenant with God ; and professed to become his people. Of the second class, were all the sacrifices, washings, &c. A part of some of the sacrifices was assigned to the offerer, who fed upon them as a token of reconciliation to God, and his friendship with him ; eating as it were of the same food, and at the same table. This was especially the case in the feast of the passover ; when all the professed people of God, renewed their covenant with God.

This ordinance in a particular manner, set forth the sufferings of Christ, and the benefits received from them by the believer, who fed upon them with thanksgiving ; instead of those rites, our Lord instituted the sacrament of the Lord's supper. There can be no hesitation I think in saying that God has taken away those numerous rites, and given the church baptism and the Lord's supper in their stead. And especially, I think no person can consider the general resemblance between circumcision and baptism, as to their meaning and intent, without seeing that the one has come in place of the other ; except he is hindered by a fear of the inference that may be drawn from it, or has set up a resolution that he will believe nothing, without a positive scripture declaration, asserting or commanding it. I shall only mention two reasons, for believing that baptism has come instead of circumcision :

1. They are of the same import, they are emblematical of regeneration. They both indicate that we are depraved, and need to be renewed in the spirit of our mind.