

# THE CANADA BAPTIST MAGAZINE.

No. 3.

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER, 1840.

VOL. IV.

## VIEWS OF BAPTISM BY GERMAN PÆDOBAPTISTS.

No. III.

DR. KNAPP.

[This eminent Theologian was, for many years, a Professor in the University of Halle, where he was long known as the almost solitary advocate of evangelical sentiments, his colleagues, in the Theological Faculty, being either secret or avowed impugnors of the faith once delivered to the saints. In his valuable works, some of which are well known, he still lives as a defender of the truth; though now his writings are in part superseded by the labours of bolder, if not more skillful, advocates. In the University, his place has been far more than filled by the celebrated *Tholuck*, who has been called, not without reason, the modern Luther of Germany.

Dr. Knapp is best known to Theological Students, from his valuable critical edition of the Greek Testaments, and from his work on Dogmatics. In the latter, which is called *Prelections on the Christian Faith*, (*Vorlesungen über die Christliche Glaubenslehre*,) we find his views of baptism. This book has been published in English, but as that transla-

tion is not at hand, the following extracts are taken from §§ 138, 139, and 142 of the second edition of the original, Halle, 1836. It is almost needless to observe that this author, while granting most that the Baptists contend for, deems it expedient to offer an apology for sprinkling, and to defend infant baptism. He does not, however, pretend that the Greek term means to sprinkle, but thinks there is no great harm in changing dipping for sprinkling. It is, however, easy to see, that if there is no harm in this innovation, there can be no harm in the Quaker innovation, of dismissing the rite from the church. It is sufficient also to remark, respecting his defence of infant baptism, that it can be offered also for infant communion, that ancient practice of the Greek church. And indeed most of it is as valid and satisfactory for the baptism of bells, a very important ceremony of the Romanists, as for the christening of unconscious babes. For his arguments in favour of infant baptism are these three, in his own words:—1) It is not forbidden