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CONDUCTED BY W. W. EATON.

Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.—*Peter*. On this Rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.—*The Lord Messiah*.

THE DESIGN OF IMMERSION.

ALTHOUGH much has been said and written on this subject, many seem not to understand our true position. Some continue to insist that we are teaching that immersion by itself secures, to those who believe in it, pardon and the enjoyment of God; that faith and repentance are something to follow after; or, at all events, they are principles of little value. When asked why they come to such conclusions, they are either silent or refer to what some one has said—whose testimony cannot then be obtained. We once heard a very popular preacher—in his party—say “Mr. — says you should be baptized *first*, and repent afterwards; but the Scriptures teach that the sinner should first repent and believe the Gospel.” Now, this man knew that he was not telling the truth; but by thus taking advantage of the credulity of the people he led them all astray, and most effectually (for a long time) unfitted them from giving us a candid hearing. Others think that we are inculcating a species of Puseyism, because we urge the necessity of immersion in order to a scriptural evidence of regeneration. Whether to charge such detractors with a want of honesty or of common sense, we know not: any man ought to be able to discern the difference between Puseyism or Romanism and the Apostolic Gospel. The former teach that baptism alone—that infant baptism is regeneration; the latter that the Faith, Repentance, Reformation, the consecration of the affections to the Lord, the public confession of this before the world, and immersion, are all necessary in order to regeneration. Were only so much as this communicated to inquirers, by our opponents, the public mind would soon be disabused; but for those who misrepresent us a day of reckoning, we trust, is at hand—we mean in this world. We hope that those who are being led astray by self-styled Ambassadors of Christ will yet have their eyes fully opened to see who are their real friends, and who are advocating the truth. The only punishment by which we pray that those who are leading the people astray may be visited is, to have the real facts in the case held up before their deluded votaries and themselves at the same time, that they may be led to that repentance and reformation which will issue in a new life. May the Lord in mercy spare them until that day.