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LETTER I.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

WHILE all the true followers of the Lord Jesus are united in the faith of the gospel as to its great essentials, it must be admitted, that through remaining darkness, they do not all see eye to eye in all things connected with it. Among those things, in which the followers of the Saviour are not universally agreed, is the ordinance of Baptism. For, while a part of the church of Christ, believe that adult believers and their offspring, are the proper subjects of this ordinance ; others believe that it should be confined alone to believing adults. Among the latter class, we have been found. It is confessedly a subject of considerable importance, both to ministers and private christians, as it affects our duty towards God and each other. Particular circumstances have led me to think much on the subject, and the result of my deliberations has been, t^hat we have been in this particular wrong , and that infant baptism is agreeable to the mind and will of God as revealed in the Scriptures.

It will be easily conceived that a variety of considerations, make it painful for me to come forward and make this public avowal. Still I think it is a duty for me so to do, particularly as I have formerly published on the opposite side of the question. The cause of truth is the cause for which every christian should contend, and for which we should be willing to make every sacrifice. In a few years, we shall have passed into eternity, where the different names by which we have been distinguished here, shall be of no avail ; but the approbation of God shall be all in all. But while we shall have passed into eternity, the effect of our principles and practices may affect the