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ON BAPTISM.

To prevent disappointment it may be well to state at the commencement, that the object of the writer of this article is not to shew, that the "infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized." The right of the infants of believers to this seal of the covenant is for the present assumed to be well founded. Although the question of "infant baptism" is in this communication waived, yet it is believed, that the exhibition of the true import of infant baptism will bring out much to show, that it is an ordinance agreeable to the general scope of the Scriptures; that it holds a most important place in the Christian system and that it serves ends of high importance for which no provision has been made, if the right of the infants of believers to be baptised be denied. On another occasion, the writer may state those arguments for the baptism of infants which completely satisfy his own mind, and which ought, long ere this, in his opinion, to have finally settled the controversy. The direct object of this communication is to set before the parents of our churches the nature and importance of an ordinance in the scriptural authority of which they all believe.

Every person who has paid any attention to the opinions and practices of many who believe that their infants ought to be baptized, must have remarked that they seem to be in a great measure ignorant of the nature of the institution—some regarding it only as a ceremony rendered venerable by long observance, and others attaching to it a superstitious importance, as if there were in it some mysterious power of securing salvation. Some, unable to say whether there be any advantage in it, and others supposing that the eternal well-being of a child is endangered if the administration of baptism be neglected.

One great proof of the ignorance which prevails respecting baptism, is furnished by the manner in which parents educate their children whom they have devoted to the Lord in Baptism. Did parents know what they did when they got the seal of the covenant put upon their offspring; did they know the responsibilities which lie upon them with respect to their children; did they know the new relationship which is formed between them and their children in baptism; did they know the relationship which subsists between God and them, and between the church and them, it would be impossible for them so utterly to neglect the religious education of their children as multitudes do. When we see parents allow their children to grow up in ignorance of the character and the will of the God to whom they consecrated them, acquiring bad principles and bad habits, and