

the baptismal water to bring forth fruit to God, and extol the riches of His grace in Christ Jesus.

17. You also think that the allusion to these earthly witnesses is calculated to mislead the "unsuspecting inquirer;" and that I have applied it to a subject "for which it was never intended." I cheerfully admit with you, sir, that the spirit, the water, and the blood, "bear witness to the Personality and Divinity of Jesus Christ;" but if you will read all of the 5th chapter of 1st John, you will see that the evidences of christian character are previously and subsequently to this verse under consideration, and the doctrine of the first *twelve* verses of the chapter is the Gospel facts to be believed, and the faith and obedience which overcome the world. As Jesus, or the truths to be believed, shown forth conspicuously by the spirit, the water, and the blood, so we know that we love him, and have confidence in him as our Saviour, when these three earthly witnesses bear testimony. Both Dr. Clarke and Mr. Wesley consider water in these verses as applying to baptism. Why, Mr. Sleep, in your opposition did you not show that this had no "reference whatever to baptism," which you could have done more easily than in the former case? If I am mistaken in the above exposition, so are some of your authors who have furnished books for the "English Conference." Read Mr. Wesley's notes on the chapter, and hear Dr. Clarke's comment on the record: "*To know, to feel his sins forgiven, to have the testimony of this in the heart from the holy spirit himself, is the privilege of every true believer in Christ. [Verse 11. This is the record.] The great truth to which the spirit, the water, and the blood, bear testimony.*" He had previously remarked on this subject that "*baptism points out regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost, and is still maintained as an initiatory rite in the Christian Church,*" &c. But want of room on our pages prevents me from making as full extracts as I desire.—These must suffice on this point.

18. But a subject of very great importance yet demands at least a passing notice; and that is, what you call "the marks of the New Birth." If we are born again, and continue to walk in Christ Jesus as we received him, we shall, notwithstanding many errors, live and die in the enjoyment of salvation; but if we make a false step here we stumble at the very threshold—we build upon the sand. The great day of the Almighty will sweep away our sandy foundations, and great will be our fall. Who then are building on the rock—the sure foundation—the tried corner stone? The great teacher answers, "He that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them." His sayings are the truths revealed in the Oracles of God; to do them is to believe—"This is the work of God that you *believe* on him whom he hath sent;" to repent—"God commandeth all men every where to *repent*;" to be baptized; the same spirit that influenced the Apostles to command all men to repent, also said, through an Apostle. "*be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for remission of sins,*" &c. These three steps bring the individual into the house of God, where he must attend all the duties devolving upon the children of God, in order to enter into "the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." To such the Spirit bears witness that they are born of God, not only by a secret impulse, but, in