

My desire to establish this new teaching has caused me to look into the Bible to find something to prove it *true*, as most men have done before me :—first make the doctrine, and then look up something in the Bible to prove it. I wished to know who gave the right hand of fellowship. I found in Paul's letter to the Galatians, ii. 9. that James, Peter, and John gave the right hand of fellowship to Paul and Barnabas, and in the name of the whole church at Jerusalem, made them welcome to all the privileges and immunities of said church, and that they should remember the poor. I find also in Paul's second letter to Timothy that he was directed to preach the Word and do the work of an evangelist ; and I think it should read "Baptize believers during the week, and add them to the Church on the first day of the week by giving them the right hand of fellowship." I am not quite certain that I get the precise words which were used on such occasions, but by reference to those places you will be able to set me right. I would also direct your attention to the twenty-third chapter of Revelations for more proof of the position we occupy, which is giving the right hand of fellowship to those baptized into Christ to add them to the church. I do not know, Sir, that it will prove anything in our favor ; but we greatly desire your *opinion*, to which we shall respectfully submit.

Love, mercy, and peace be to you and yours,

A. BENTON.

REMARKS.

The very intelligent writer of the preceding, who is known far and wide for his close and critical study of the scriptures, has a very convenient faculty of making an inquiry and answering it at the same time.

The December *Banner* contains two allusions to the right hand of fellowship—one by our always esteemed fellow-labourer brother Eaton, and the other by a very brotherly correspondent who refreshed us with some cheering items of news. In the first instance, prayer and the right hand of fellowship were associated in recognizing (not in making) members a church of the Lord. The other instance, we presume, was in accordance with the practice which commonly obtains among Baptist and other churches ; a keeping up of the fine old, cordial, generous custom of putting people through a second door in the middle of the temple to make certainty doubly sure that they are really and undeniably in the temple, and that they are welcome—defended upon the principle that "a little more is just enough."

In our New Testament (which, either fortunately or unfortunately lacks the twenty-third chapter of the Revelations—!) we find the term fellowship some fourteen or fifteen times. The right hand is associated with it precisely once. Paul tells the secret of its use to