

clearly taught by the word of God that the blood of Christ cleanses from all sins.

It is the procuring cause of the remission of sins, and without it there could be no remission ; baptism administered to penitent believers, is the means by which they enjoy the pardon of those sins, which they committed while aliens, and confession is the means by which the citizens of Messiah's kingdom enjoy the pardon of those sins which they commit after baptism.

The objections urged by many against baptism for the remission of sins, arise from their supposing the remission of sins to be something wrought in the heart, but the pardon of sins is not any thing wrought in the heart of man, but is an act passed by the Executive of the Universe in the palace royal of heaven.

A rebel against a temporal government cannot tell by his feelings that the executive has pardoned him. It is only by the pardon of the executive, duly authenticated, that he can be assured of pardon.

A portion of a king's subjects have revolted, he issues his proclamation, bearing the seal of state and his own royal signature. It meets the eyes of one of the rebels, he immediately complies with its conditions. Ask him if he is not afraid he will be executed for treason. No sir, says he, here is the king's proclamation, proposing pardon upon certain conditions. I have complied with those conditions, and unless the king deny himself, I am a pardoned man.

So man has revolted against the divine government. The great King eternal, immortal, and invisible, has issued his royal proclamation, bearing his own divine signature, and sealed with the broad red seal of the blood of his beloved son. Ask a man who has intelligently obeyed the gospel, whether he is pardoned or not, and he will not tell you he thinks so, because at a certain time he dreamed a dream, saw a vision, heard a voice or had peculiar feelings, but he will point you to heaven's royal proclamation.

He will tell you that the great king has issued his proclamation, bearing the divine seal and inscription, proposing pardon to his rebel subjects upon the conditions of faith, repentance, and baptism. I am assured that this is the proclamation of the great king himself. I know that these are its terms, and I know that I have complied with them. I know that I believe the gospel with all my heart, and did before I was baptised. I know that I repented, broke off from my sins by righteousness, and I know that I was buried with Christ in baptism. My faith, my repentance, and my baptism, are all matters of consciousness about which I cannot be mistaken ; and here is the proclamation of the king attesting my pardon. And if I could this moment enter his audience chamber, and solicit an answer from his own divine lips, his word is the only evidence I could have of my pardon.

[To be continued.]