

An Open Letter to my Critics.

GENTLEMEN :—

I am sorry to know that my sermons on baptism have aroused angry feelings in your hearts. That was not the intended effect, but I had hoped to have awakened a spirit of free and honest enquiry. And if the reverse of my hopes are realized, I am not to be blamed for the result, for it was through a Pedo-baptist that the sermons were preached. This winter, many young people, brought up in six other denominations, strayed into the First Baptist Church meetings; and I am happy to be able to say that (among them five young men and three young women) testified that they had experienced a change of heart. They came of their own free will, and God blessed His word to their souls. One of these had serious thoughts of joining the Baptist Church, but was not satisfied as to the consistency of "Close Communion." One of that person's companions called on me and told me that that young convert fully believed that believer's baptism by immersion was the only baptism in the New Testament, but could not understand close communion, and would I give an address on the subject. The sermon on "Close Communion" was therefore the result of Pedo-baptists having been converted in our church.

In not one of my sermons is there any expressed or intended unkind feelings towards any one, but simply straightforward statements on what we believe, and why we differ from others on the subjects discussed. In them cannot be found a single statement that reflects on any individual in Yarmouth, but only an honest discussion of the different baptisms practised by the different bodies here represented. Now if any minister or layman desires to answer my sermons, let him do so in the same way I have pursued, and in the same spirit I have exhibited.

Why should not our differences be freely and calmly discussed? Is it not by such means that the best conclusions are reached in the Legislature? And what a farce a trial in court would be were the lawyers prohibited free and open debate? Then seeing there is such a wide divergence between us on the solemn subject of baptism, why should not our