

PREFACE.

THIS pamphlet contains the substance of an address delivered in the Baptist Chapel, Brantford, on the evening after the author's baptism, to one of the largest, if not the largest, congregation that ever assembled in any place of worship in that town. At the earnest solicitation of many friends, it is now given to the public, not in any proselyting spirit, but to meet the oft-repeated enquiry as to the reasons of his change, and to aid any who may be desirous of knowing the Lord's will on the subject of baptism. While he attaches no saving efficacy to the ordinance—while he has no desire merely to make Baptist converts—he does desire to see Christians conformed as nearly as possible in faith and practice to the Word of God. But, knowing how widely the leaven is diffused throughout the church—how vain the efforts of man must prove entirely to purge the lump—he cannot but more earnestly yearn for that time when ritual ordinances shall be no longer needed, and all diversities of sentiment and practice shall be lost amid the blaze of perfect truth, and the one body of Christ shall be glorious in the beauty of its perfected and manifested unity. “Even so. Come, Lord Jesus!”

BRANTFORD, March, 1861.