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" THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD."—Prov. xix. 2.  
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A GUIDE TO BAPTISM,

*Being an attempt to lead the plain Christian into the Scripture doctrine
and practice of Baptism.*

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[CONCLUDED.]

III. This baptism of persons by sprinkling is continued under the New Testament with some circumstantial alterations.

About eight hundred years after this baptism was in constant use, Isaiah delivered to the Jews a prophecy about sprinkling. Isaiah lii. 15: "He (the Messiah) shall sprinkle many nations." This prophecy was delivered without note or comment to a people in the daily practice of sprinkling men, women and infants. Now I request the reader calmly and candidly to judge how an honest-hearted Jew would understand the prophecy. Doubtless he would suppose it to mean some such sprinkling as was in common practice with his countrymen. As he could form no idea of any other, and as no other was hinted by the prophet, that is the fair construction of the words and of course their true sense. The prophecy is, "He shall sprinkle many nations," plainly shewing that sprinkling of men, women and infants should continue to be enjoyed under the reign of the Messiah, and that it should be extended to the Gentile nations. Pious Jews upon hearing this prophecy would exult and say, Then will God grant unto the Gentiles the repentance unto life, which is meant by our sprinkling.

About one hundred years afterward, Ezekiel, chap. xxxvi. 25, speaking of the times of the Messiah, introduces Jehovah saying, "I will sprinkle clean water upon you and ye shall be clean." Here is a more definite prophecy delivered to the same people and in the same manner. I again request the reader to pause and reflect candidly how an honest Jew behoved to understand it. He behoved to expect that, under the Messiah's government, men, women and infants would be baptized by sprinkling with clean water. He has an advantage over Isaiah's hearer, for he has plain evidence that the ashes of the red heifer should be laid aside, and that clean water alone should