

devout frame of mind, he is beforehand fearing, and at the moment of being dipped, guarding against suffocation. Instead of such a mode of baptism being calculated to suggest and foster spiritual ideas, it is just fitted to drive them all away. How unlike the spirit of Christianity, which enjoins no burdensome, painful ceremonies, is this mode! How unlike the sister sacrament of the Lord's Supper, where all is eminently calculated to excite and to aid profitable and devout contemplation!

It is sometimes said by Baptists, and was much dwelt on by Rev. J. Inglis (late of this town,) in the *Evangelical Pioneer*, that the solemnity of this mode of baptism, is one proof among others, of its being the right one. Whatever impressions of a solemn nature others may have received from spectacles of dipping, I can only say, they wear to me anything but a solemn appearance. Besides it is not uncommon for accidents to take place which render seriousness impossible, and give rise to confusion and mortification.*

Nor is it in some cases unattended with danger. True. Baptists have affirmed,

"That afflicted persons have been occasionally benefited in their health by immersing them in cold water at baptism." This I will not deny, any more than I would the accounts I have read of men being cured of rheumatism and gout by finding their houses on fire. Such results, however, are accidental, contrary to the natural course of things, and never anticipated by the parties themselves. Whereas causing people to stand up to their knees but a minute in cold water, or plunging them under it—particularly if advanced in years, heated by excitement or a crowd of spectators; or if subject to chronic diseases, or having a tendency of blood to the head or the heart; is calculated to produce the most serious physical mischief. And, in this conclusion, we are fully borne out by the precautions sometimes observed by our experienced opponents. Hid beneath his black gown, the minister has been known to wear leathern boots reaching above his middle—the water in the baptistry has been privately warmed before the dipping has commenced—the baptism of many invalids has been postponed for months and years, and even to the end of their lives through the apprehension of bodily mischief. Surely, then, danger is sometimes anticipated, even by persons who loudly dilate on the safety and the pleasure of being baptized by immersion.†

Nor are these dangers wholly imaginary; sicknesses, and

*A case of this sort occurred 4 years ago in the village of — C.W. A Baptist minister was in the act of immersing a married female, when his foot slipped, and immediately they were both floundering in the water. The husband fearing that his wife would be literally "buried in baptism," and find a watery grave, was rushing to the rescue, when the minister recovered his foothold, raised the lady, and as thoroughly mortified as he was drenched, made his way to the bank. This was certainly a literal fulfilment of the words, "they went down both into the water."

† Dip. not Bap.