

made a temple of the Holy Spirit till he believed in Jesus with all his heart. Who believes such a doctrine? Do you ask? Answer; all who teach regeneration by the Holy Spirit in order to faith. What, you ask, "may not a sinner be 'born again' by the Holy Spirit and not be a partaker of it?" Yes, if he can be a child of God without his nature!! Who then can become children of God? John answers (1st chapt. 12th verse) "As many as receive him to them gives he power [right or privilege] to become sons of God, *even to them that believe on his name.*" If, then, any one was ever born again without faith, or in order to faith, it has been a rare event—one not revealed in the oracles of God—yea more, *contrary* to all their teachings. Such an one has been, not born merely out of due time, but contrary to all the laws in the spiritual reign of King Messiah!

Now, be it far from me to intimate, that the Baptists generally believe such an absurd, unscriptural, God-dishonoring doctrine. It is my opinion that they do not. But that this is the doctrine taught by Andrew Fuller, and many of their Rabbis, and especially by my friend Mr. Robinson, their own words declare. What influence the sentiment has upon their hearts and lives I presume not to intimate. Men are sometimes better than their doctrine and sometimes worse: "By their fruits ye shall know them."

W. W. E.

New London, Pa.

### "CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE."

REPORT OF A DISCOURSE BY W. W. EATON, DELIVERED AT EASTPORT, MAINE, MANY YEARS AGO.

MY FRIENDS: I purpose an address on Christian Experience. The phrase is not found in the Bible; but as it is in common use we will endeavor to ascertain what there is in the good book that relates to it. The word experience occurs, in the common version, just four times, and is found in the three following places, namely: Gen 30, 27. Laban said to Jacob, I have learned by 'experience' that the Lord hath blessed me for thy sake. In Ecclesiastes, 1, 16, Solomon says, My heart hath had great 'experience' of wisdom and knowledge. And Paul in his letter to the church at Rome, v, 3 4, informs us, That tribulation worketh patience, and patience *experience*, and experience hope.

It is at once apparent, my friends, that the word is improperly

\* In my correspondence with Mr. Robinson, he says, "A brother heard you preach in Eastport against experience." [See correspondence page 120.] I have repeated the discourse since. I have a distinct recollection of every prominent point I appeal, in proof of the correctness of the report, to those who heard me. The reader must examine it in the light of God's Holy Word.