

culty attends the question of infant baptism. The difficulty on the subject is that baptism from its very nature is a profession of faith; it is the way in which by the ordinance of Christ, etc., is to be confessed before men; but infants are incapable of making such confession; therefore, they are not the proper subjects of baptism. Or, to state the matter in another form, the sacraments belong to the members of the church, but the church is a company of believers; infants cannot exercise faith, therefore, they are not members of the church, and consequently ought not to be baptized."

Those immersed by John the Baptist repented, confessing their sins (Matt. iii: 1-8). Our Lord's word was, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved (Mark xvi: 16); and His command, "Teach or make disciples of all nations, baptizing them," (Matt. xxviii: 19). The croyds of Pentecost were commanded to "repent and be baptized" (Acts ii: 37). "But when they believed," it says of the Samaritans, "they were baptized both men and women." (Acts viii: 12). Here we see personal faith, a condition impossible to infants, is the scriptural condition for baptism.

What does a Catholic priest say about it? "It does not appear from scripture that even one infant was ever baptized, therefore, Protestants should reject, on their own principles, infant baptism as an unscriptural usage." (Rev. Stephen Keenan, in catechism, approved by Archbishop Hughes, of New York, in '51.)

There is neither precedent precept nor principle in the whole Bible for infant baptism. It is an invention of man; and as such to be rejected..

HOW DID THEY REGARD THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM?

In the early days no one ever thought of confessing Christ without a prompt, ready and open obedience in the baptismal waters. "When a convert declared his faith in Christ, he was taken at once to the nearest pool or stream of water and plunged into it, and henceforth he was recognized as one of the Christian community." (J. Cunningham, Pres. "The Growth of the Church," p. 173). When they of Pen-