

BAPTISM.

WHAT is the Scriptural mode and meaning of baptism? Around this question the storm of theological controversy has raged for a period of more than two hundred years, and the end is not yet. Immersionists contend that there is only one mode, dipping, or immersion in the sense of dipping. Dr. Carson, perhaps the ablest of all Baptist writers, says, on page 55 of his book, "My position is that it (*baptizo*) always signifies 'to dip,' never expressing anything but mode." He frankly admits, however, that in this opinion "all the lexicographers are against him." Dr. T. J. Conant, chairman of the American (Baptist) Bible Revision Committee, and a scholar of unquestioned eminence, does not find it so easy to translate this word. On the first page of his book, "*Baptizein*," he gives us seven different words whereby to render *baptizo* into English, and then throughout his book he translates by no less than fourteen words! His seven words are, "immerse," "immerge," "submerge," "dip," "plunge," "imbathe," "whelm." He informs us that none of these is the exact equivalent of the Greek word, but only what he calls the "ground meaning" common to them all. But what that ground meaning is he cannot find in the English language a word to express. This is rather a remarkable confession coming from the chief man in a denomination that regards it as an evidence of "want of common Christian honesty" not to translate but simply transfer the Greek word to the English Bible. A careful examination will