

of having one of them baptized, and think it would have been simple in me to have had it done.

Yours in the gospel of Christ,

A LOVER OF THE TRUTH.

Upon the above, the editor of the "Messenger" offers the following reflections :

"All we have to say respecting the above case, is, that it shows, in a grievous form, the superstitious influence of the unscriptural practice of what is called *infant baptism*. These superstitious notions originated the custom at the first, and they still maintain a powerful influence on the minds of the ignorant at the present day. But the fact that men professing to be teachers of religion should have the temerity to avow that unless a dying babe is sprinkled with a few drops of water, and signed on its forehead with a watery cross, by an Episcopally ordained clergyman, it will go to perdition, is a most awful display of cruelty, ignorance, and bigotry. We question much whether the entire annals of heathenism can furnish anything more gross, deceptive, or erroneous, than this priestly dogma of pretending to save dying infants from perdition, by the ceremony of sprinkling and crossing."

For two reasons the preceding extracts are presented to the community that reads the Christian Banner.

1st. Our friend of the "Messenger," while devoutly attempting to convince his readers that the language of this paper is radically lacking in charity, seems at times to employ his pen as harshly and rudely as those whom he condemns.

2nd. All who study the Sacred Book and are earnestly at work copying primitive models, should see how much there is yet to perform ere our countrymen shall enjoy the liberty and the wisdom of christianity.

D. O.

### J. T. JOHNSON AND THE SALARY SYSTEM.

The subjoined letters deserve to be read extensively. The reply to brother Johnson is from the pen of the editor of the Gospel Advocate. It is very refreshing to find even one periodical standing up manfully for the primitive order of things, even though dear brethren have to be opposed in taking the stand. The singular spiritual commercialism encompassed in what is called the salary system, which was thoroughly exposed twenty-five years ago by the disciples, is becoming just as convenient and fashionable among the brotherhood of the reformation in