

Our Pulpit.

Religious espousal of character. It is a matter of principle to be religious and there is something in principle which involves decision of character. We should not consent for the sake of expediency to be inconsistent. If expediency should be urged by some, and expedient action would be suggested, we should be contented to stand out of place. How much stronger, then, is religious conviction! Submission is offered to sinners, and they hesitate whether to accept it or not. Eternal life is held out as the gift of God through Jesus Christ, but they cannot decide to receive it. They "halt between two opinions." There may be those that will read this article, who acknowledge the importance of Christianity, and intend to be Christians before they die—and yet are at present undecided. When they think of the value of their souls, and the importance of eternal things, they are almost persuaded to be Christians; but their love of sin and of the world prevents a thorough persuasion. How lamentable that rational creatures should be undecided on the subject of salvation! But so it is; and hence I make religious indecision my present topic.

Murreesboro Bible Society. In order to give more regularity and extent to their meetings, the members of the Murreesboro Bible Society, have determined to hold their meetings on Wednesdays in this society, on Wednesdays, thirty dollars (at one time) becomes a life director; one contributing ten dollars, an annual director; the contributor of five dollars is entitled to receive a certain number of Bibles and a dollar's value of tracts or other publications of the Tennessee Bible Society for gratuitous distribution. The contribution of any sum, however small, constitutes a member.

were present on the Sabbath at the Baptist Church—and cannot but hope that it will be adopted not only in Union College, but also in the Christian College at Raleigh. The Board of Trustees at Wake Forest, in Georgia, the Furman in South Carolina, Wake Forest in North Carolina, and indeed in all the colleges in our denomination, every where. Yours in Christ. A. C. DARTON. Corresponding Sec. B. B. & Co. Bible Rooms, Nashville, Feb. 3, 1855.

Communications. Interpretation of the Scriptures. On the Rev. J. M. Pendleton's rejection of Pedobaptism and churches, inconsistent with the right of private judgment in matters of religious belief. Ma. Editor.—Truth is dear to every pious heart. All men are entitled to justice. Sectarian partialities ought to weigh only as dust in the balance against truth and righteousness. Having often seen the statement that "Baptist papers never offer for publication in your columns, some remarks touching the proposed repudiation of Pedobaptist denominations by the Baptists. I hope you will rejoice in the opportunity, here afforded, of showing your faith by your works: of proving the sincerity of your professions by your practice. On this important subject, I must be allowed some plainness of speech; but I ought not, and will not, designedly, utter a single word or sentiment which can afflict or offend any pious and well-informed Baptist—farther than my honest views of truth and duty may tend to that result. I am not willing to give cause of offence to any follower of Christ, and will try to avoid all language which might afford you, Mr. Editor, cause to reject my article. I therefore request, as a special favor, that you would either publish or return this my article, very promptly; for the reason that the interests of vital godliness have, in my humble opinion, already suffered too long for the want of a defender. I could wish they had found an abler one than the writer.

The Rev. James M. Pendleton, justly esteemed as a Christian gentleman and able minister of Christ, did, some months ago, largely occupy your columns with the advocacy of the sentiment, that Baptists ought not to invite Pedobaptist ministers to their pulpits, because the former could not recognize the latter, as gospel ministers, nor the organization to which they belong, as gospel churches. Since Pedobaptists have as many and as good pulpits as others, there is no slander nor persecution in the refusal to invite them; but can the same be truly asserted with regard to the reason for such refusal, which has been published abroad in the very face of Christendom as well as a world that lieth in wickedness! On reading these views, though they were pressing urged by a distinguished Baptist minister, I confidently believed that they would be treated as they deserved by pious and intelligent Baptists everywhere, and that they were in danger of harming no one, except that class of persons—unfortunately to be found in all churches—whose piety and intelligence seem rather to need improvement.—When I learned that a certain Association had, by solemn resolution, endorsed the unbecoming sentiment, I did feel somewhat alarmed for the honor of our holy religion, and actually commenced writing an article, designed to counteract its baleful influence. But subsequently reflecting that the Association is not the whole Baptist church; that I had long lived and labored in perfect harmony with many ministers of that communion, whose memory will ever be dear to my heart; that even now I am in habits of occasional and very delightful intercourse, with some whose Christian sympathy and friendship I highly prize;—and especially believing that a sentiment so revolting could never prevail to much extent among the humble and devout—I concluded to be silent, leaving the subject to younger men and abler pens.

In the meantime this repudiating sentiment has been embodied and is circulated in a Tract, under the title of "AN OLD LANDMARK;" a title as inappropriate as it is preposterous! Some other Associations have endorsed the same. Besides, the Rev. Mr. Pendleton has, in a late number of the Tennessee Baptist, come forth with a long article, tending to confound and overwhelm his dissenting brethren, and thus silence their conscientious scruples, by means of what he is pleased to call "Baptist logic." I trust, Mr. Editor, you will allow me, if I am able so to do, to address to your readers a little scriptural and Christian logic. I have no controversy with them about baptism. I believe they are honest in their views of that subject. And with this admission, I shall endeavor to show, that they cannot, as conscientious Bible Christians, repudiate evangelical Christian ministers and churches of the Pedobaptist faith and order. Nor will I complicate the argument I have to offer, with any discussion relating to the mode or subject of baptism. With your permission, I now address my remarks TO THE BAPTIST BRETHREN.

I acknowledge myself a Pedobaptist—but for this, O, may I not be contented—an humble minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, one who has always deprecated the controversies which have existed between some of our respective brethren. I am aware that party spirit in its recklessness sometimes uses derisive language—such as "ducking," "ranting," &c.—but I never could indulge in such terms as any religious or sober man would have recourse to. It cannot be shown that I have during many years' service as Editor, ever written any thing, disparagingly, of your church or brethren, but much in favor of both. Then let the counsel of peace be between us, while I address you on a subject involving tremendous consequences to your branch of Christ's church. I feel that duty and conscience will not allow me to be silent. I must attempt something in favor of gospel simplicity, if it be no more than to sweep between the porch and the altar, saying "spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach." Allow me, then, for Christ and his gospel's sake, to solicit your patient and prayerful attention to the following considerations.

1. All ought to read the Scriptures. They were given by the inspiration of God, and are the only rule of faith and practice our Lord commands.—"Search the Scriptures." Surely every Christian must feel bound to obey; and in doing so, he ought humbly to look for light and grace to enable him to understand the things which are spiritually discerned.

...that could be such articles as have been written for that paper by Mr. Lowry.

...We would that our readers were acquainted with the three gentlemen who constitute this committee.

...These familiar with the sermon—"The Watchman's Reply"—know that neither the mode nor the subject of baptism are their only...

...Lam fell we visited Canton during the session of the Central Association and learned these facts from our brethren...

...A CHALLENGE ACCEPTED—We whose names are mentioned in this article, though not particularly fond of controversy...

...Instead of the issues in the Sermon, of which they complained, they present the old and tried issues of the mode and subjects of Christian baptism...

...But we will leave it to the public to decide if we beat a retreat? We have just written to the Committee...

...From the Editor.—It is estimated that the "allies" in the Baptist cause have lost by the sword, disease, &c., 50,000 souls...

...The History of the Centennial Disunion.—Nearly three years since, accepting the invitation of the Mississippi Ministerial Education Society...

...Until this paragraph is retracted, another article than those before me, from Mr. Graves, shall not appear on my page...

...Nor did I name Dr. Williams, of New York—simply alluded to my preaching and teachings in New York, in the year 1815, 1816...

...And now, publicly noticing it for the first time, I take occasion to say, that after the reviews began...

...His allusions to Dr. M'Clay are quite as unfortunate as his allusions to "Parkerson, Stoughton and Holcome" are...

...Dr. M'Clay and myself had but one doctrinal conversation on the Christian religion for many years. It was in his own house, on the subject of my addressing the Synod of that section of New York...

...I believe in one God, one Lord, one Spirit, equal, eternally, immutably, substantially Divine; one Jehovah—Jehovah our Elohim, our God, our Father, our Son, and the Holy Spirit...

...Baptists of Mr. Graves' kidney, they think they honor us by permitting us to have a name and a place in the "Bible Union"...

...I must say, and I say it emphatically, that I must have an endorsement; I believe that Elder M'Clay, alias Dr. M'Clay, ever said to Mr. Graves that his "system is vitally unscriptural, unreasonableness, and absurd"...

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...I should not have been so proud of my reputation; I merely regard myself, (and am so regarded by my friends) as our common, orthodox...

...As to his abuse of the word "compiler." It is unique, and characteristic. I have, in my abuse of the word, never made a compilation in my life...

...This popular work contains not only the Life of the Apostle Paul, but a new translation of his Epistles. Mr. C. was the translator. He deviates in many instances from the common version...

...It seems to me that our brother F., with most others of our country, is in error, in believing, with respect to the act of forgiveness was passed over by the Lord Jesus Christ, and that the law was cancelled...

...It is always been the fault of system-makers and theorists, that they have had each one his favorite scheme. Andrew Fuller it appears had his. With him, we are told, the cross was the central point...

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