

ARGUMENTS ON THE MODE OF BAPTISM.

Let us examine the connection in which the word baptizo occurs, in order to ascertain its proper meaning. We read in the Prophet Joel, chap. 2, v. 28, 29: "It shall come to pass after these words, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh."

As we have commenced this subject, at the risk of being thought tedious, we must introduce one passage more. Indeed, the importance of having correct views on the subject, must be our apology. We read in Luke 12, 50: "I have baptism to be baptized with." &c. This is a beautiful illustration of the mode of baptism by sprinkling or pouring.

His sufferings are now over—that blood, which flowed so freely, was poured out for us—the prophecy of Isaiah, (52, 15.) "So shall he sprinkle many nations," was accomplished. He now commissions his disciples: "Go, baptize (or sprinkle) all nations."

In 1 Peter 1, 2, see also Heb. 9, 13, 14, the significance and beauty of the sprinkling and pouring are apparent; the sprinkling of water on all nations, is an expressive figure of the sprinkling of the blood of Christ.

Where do we find dipping even slightly alluded to, or read of dipping, except in the blood of Christ? How has the word of God been misunderstood! Only with correct views can we understand the beautiful prophecy of Ezekiel, in chap. 36, 25, 26. How expressive and solemn is the ceremony of baptism, i. e., sprinkling or pouring, and inappropriate the gross act of dipping!

Are we not then justified in maintaining, that if we are to be guided by the Scriptures, baptizo cannot, possibly, mean immerse? What have we yet found to lead to this idea? Are not, so far, all the circumstances calculated to show that the word in question means nothing but to pour or sprinkle?

But let us dismiss this verbal criticism. Have we not instances on record of the actual administration of the rite of baptism, which may, perhaps, throw more light on the subject? Here we find rich material, and we will, therefore, proceed to the investigation of the second point which we proposed to discuss, namely:

What was the practice of John the Baptist and of the Apostles, in the administration of the rite of baptism?

With regard to John, we read that he "was baptizing in Enon, near to Salom, because there was much water there." John 3, 23. A reference to

the Greek Testament, shows that this should be literally translated, not "much water," but many waters, evidently in allusion to a number of springs or small collections of water. It is admitted by all, that no river or creek flows near the spot where Enon stood. The plural hydaiata simply means waters, without designating the quantity. Hydaiata, by no means, necessarily means deep water, when used in the plural number. We have made it a rule, in order to save room, to confine ourselves to the Greek of the New Testament, but we have met with an instance in a classic author, so apposite, that we cannot prevail on ourselves to omit it.

The same word, hydaiata, occurs in an oration of Demosthenes against Callicles, at the commencement, page 1172 of Reiske's ed., and p. 275, vol. 8, of Dobson's Orationes Attice, where the context and whole object of the oration render it certain that it designates "springs." If, then, hydaiata (waters)—can imply drops of water falling as rain, why must we at once charge these hydaiata where John bade, into deep waters or rivers?

A familiar instance will illustrate our idea: Methodist Camp meetings are frequently held on the margin of some running stream, or near some copious supply of water. Why? Do they intend to dip, when they publish that a camp meeting will be held near a creek? Is it not their intention to continue on the spot for several days, and will they not need "much water" for the use of man and beast?

Let us but remember, that "all the land of Judea and Jerusalem," Mark 1, 5, that is, immense multitudes emerged from their populous cities and towns, and came with camels and asses—let us remember, that in their country water was scarce, and hence a single spring or well of proportionably high value—let us remember, too, since many came a distance, and must have continued on the spot at least one night, and that, too, in a sultry climate, they needed "much water," and we will not wonder that John selected a spot where water abounded.

But does not Matthew tell us, chap. 3, 6, that on other occasions "they were baptized of him in Jordan?" We answer, No. It is not the old English language, but original Greek which must decide. Let the verse just referred to decide: "How could they be baptized of him? In modern English, we would say by him. If an English preposition may, or rather did, express, in the time of King James, the two different ideas of by and of, why is it difficult to conceive that a Greek preposition may have shades of meaning? It is well known how much the meanings of Greek prepositions vary. If we read, Mark 1, 4, "John did baptize in the wilderness," did he dip them in the sand of the wilderness. The fact is, we must translate, at or near Jordan. This can, perhaps, be made intelligible; even the one word in question, is, in Greek, en, rendered here in. But the same word stands in a similar connection in Luke 13, 4, where our Saviour speaks of the tower in Siloam. Siloam was a well known pool of water, in which our Saviour directed a man, born blind, to wash. (John 9, 7.) That is, his eyes: for the word translated wash, is appropriated to the washing of the hands, feet, face, &c., and seems to exclude the idea of bathing, for which there are other appropriate words. The instances in Beza's Lexicon, given under the word nipto, substantiate this remark. In the other five chapters of the New Testament where it occurs, according to the Greek concordance of E. Scholz, it is uniformly and expressly applied to the washing of the face, feet or hands. The pool was so shallow to have allowed a bathing of the whole body, and hence this word (nipto) is used. The same pool is mentioned in Nehemiah 3, 15, where the Hebrew termination, as in numberless instances, differs from the Greek. The pool lay to the east of Jerusalem, and the tower stood near it, which is meant by the word en. Thus, too, we read, Heb. 10, 12, "Christ sat down on the right hand of God." Here the same word occurs. Now, if we must translate, in Jordan, we must translate, he sat down in the right hand of God; for the word is the same in both cases. But as we, of course, translate it at or by the right hand, &c., so, too, we must translate at or by the Jordan. Still, it may be said, that John must have immersed our Saviour, for we read, Matt. 3, 16, "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water." Here we remark, that Matthew does not say that Christ went into the Jordan, but, v. 13, only to it. The necessity is, how did he then come out of the river? The English words, went up, are expressed by one compound Greek word, ανεβη, and the words, out of, by the simple word, απο. We will endeavor to explain the proper rendering of these words to the English reader. Luke tells us, chap. 19, 4, that Zaccheus, in order to have a better view of our Saviour, climbed up a tree. The Greek for climbed up is ανεβη, the identical word, in the same person, number, tense, mood and voice, which occurs in Matthew 3, 16. The reader will observe, that the idea of ascending, climbing, &c., is connected with ανεβη; that is, Jesus ascended, climbed up the catalpa tree, which stretches its branches up to the tops of the mountains, which stretches its branches up to the tops of the mountains, which stretches its branches up to the tops of the mountains.

See Harn's Introd., vol. 3, p. 35. The Jordan had high banks, and hence, in the Prophet Jeremiah 49, 19, the lion is said to come up from the swelling of Jordan, not as if he were an amphibious animal, coming out of the water, but up from its vicinity. Again, apo is, in Matthew 3, 16, translated "out of," but it should be translated, simply, from. Let us endeavor to prove this assertion: The word apo occurs, for example, Acts, 12, 16, "When the angel who delivered Peter out of Prison, had conducted him through the iron gate and one street, he forthwith departed from him." But now, if we must translate, out of Jordan, then, to be consistent, we must necessarily translate the same word, apo, thus: The angel departed out of Peter, which, of course, does not apply; the angel at his side, simply went away. To save room, we omit other examples. The Baptism of Jesus, by John, after these explanations, may be thus viewed: Christ is our priest and king. This is too well understood and known to need an illustration. These classes of men, among the Jews, were consecrated by the affusion of oil on their heads. Thus, Aaron, the priest, (Exodus 30, 30,) and Saul, David (1 Sam. 10, 1, 16, 13) and other kings, were consecrated. It is in allusion to this mode of formally setting apart a priest or king, that Isaiah says, Chap. 6, 1, "The Lord hath anointed me," &c., that is, Christ. Hence he was called Christ, which is a Greek word, and like the Hebrew word Messiah, signifies, "the anointed one." Before Christ assumed the office of a public teacher, he desired to be officially consecrated as priest and king, by the hand of an acknowledged messenger of God; not, indeed, as if this was essential to him, but in order to comply with the established customs, or, as he himself expressed it, to fulfill all righteousness. He went to John, who was in the vicinity of the river, in order to procure water with ease, in a vessel, whenever he was requested to baptize. Christ knelt down, perhaps, and then, to signify the act of anointing, he took water, (for neither oil nor water had any peculiar spiritual efficacy, and were hence of equal value,) and poured it on the head of our Saviour, signifying, perhaps, likewise the out-pouring of the spirit, which at the time did descend. After his baptism, Jesus ascended, or climbed up the activity, and went simply away from the region of Jordan.

We read here of no dipping, of nothing that could favor such an idea. Why should John have dipped our Saviour? Certainly not in allusion to the burial of the latter, for he was not yet dead; and hence, had he dipped him, it would have seemed as much out of place, as if he had administered to him the sacrament of the Lords supper before it was instituted.

There is one expression in Matthew 3, 16, which needs a passing remark. The translation "he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost," has been occasionally impugned; but it is a most successful version. When we read in Matthew 26, 52, (see like an instance designedly from the same writer) "they that take the sword shall perish with the sword," we see at once that with or by can be the only word, and is the only word, prefixed to sword. The same word is, in the former passage, prefixed to Holy Ghost, and hence, it is correctly rendered with or by the Holy Ghost.

L. D. L.

Foreign Items.

Miss Manners, a handsome young lady, aged 23, and possessing a fortune of five thousand pounds, recently eloped with, and married a policeman, whom she had never seen but once before.

The Great Western steamer, it is said, has been purchased by Mehmet Ali, who intends to convert her into a steam frigate.

An immediate effort is to be made in England to raise funds for planting a branch of the English Church in the new settlement of Hong Kong.

A woodcock, with four white legs, was recently shot at Keasby, in the county of Cornwall, Eng. It has been presented to the Royal Cornwall Institution.

The number of miles of railroad in England amounts to 1,801, at cost of £58,149,169, being on an average about £31,246 per mile.

A Superfine beaver hat, transmitted by post from Manchester, was delivered by the Belfast letter carrier, postage three pence.

A drove of geese, amounting to 5,000, passed Cambridge, on the way to Epping, in readiness for the London market. Where they rested for the night they were fed with 2 lbs. of potatoes, and half a pint of oats to each goose.

The Rev. William Bailey was, on the 21st ultimo, committed to Newgate, charged with forging a promissory note for £2,875.

The "John Bull" states, positively, that there are now building, at Blackwall, five large steam frigates for the Russian Government, which are intended for the war against the Circassians.

MORE RASCALITY.—Great frauds have just been discovered in the Canadian Custom House. It is asserted that three quarters of the revenue has never reached the government. One collector returned less revenue for one quarter than was known to have been received in a single importation, within the knowledge of the inspector.

It is stated in the Baltimore Republican, that Captain Joseph Owens, whose residence is a few miles from Annapolis, shot his son on Wednesday morning—the wound causing almost immediate death. This shocking deed, it is said, was occasioned by an ill-feeling out of a law suit.

A WIFE.—Somebody says there are two scripture proofs that females do not go to heaven. First, (Rev. xi. 3) "And there appeared a great woman in heaven: but a woman?" Second, (ib. viii. 1) "There was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour!"



We have just received sixty reams of printing paper, similar in size and quality to the sheet upon which this is printed. Also 36 reams of super Royal 21 by 28 inches, which will be sold at cost and carriage, for cash.

The public Ferry of this place, was sold to Samuel Bartsch, on Tuesday last, for the term of three years, at \$91 50 per annum.

The river Susquehanna is now closed, at this place, and if the present state of the weather should hold on a few days longer, there will be no complaint for the want of ice.

In another column will be found a communication on the subject of Baptism, which we have been requested to publish. It is a subject in which we shall not, personally, take any part. Our columns are, however, open for communications from either side, when expressed or couched in respectful language, and in a proper tone and temper.

The Superintendent of the Common School recommends that the school law be altered, so as to prohibit any child entering the school under five years of age.

The Weekly North American came to hand last week, enlarged, and much improved in appearance. The North American is one of the ablest papers published in Philadelphia.

Willis has become the sole proprietor of the Brother Jonathan.

We are indebted to C. W. Hegins, Esq., Clerk of the Senate, for a copy of the Auditor General's Report, which we have examined with more than ordinary interest. We doubt whether a more able document has ever emanated from that department. Mr. Packer's qualification for the discharge of the duties of his office are universally admitted. The lucid and explicit arrangement of his report, shows that he is well versed in the business of his office, and thoroughly understands its duties.

It is important that the legislature should pass the appropriation bill, as soon as circumstances will permit, instead of postponing it until the close of the session. The supervisor on the Susquehanna division of the canal, says, he is obliged to make a conditional contract with the laborers on his division. They are to receive 87 1/2 cents per day if the money is paid in two months; if left to hang after that time, the state must pay one dollar per day.

Edwin W. Hutter, the present able and talented Deputy Secretary, is spoken of as the successor of Judge Parsons, as Secretary of the Commonwealth. We should be pleased to hear of the appointment of Mr. Hutter. That he would make an able and efficient officer, all who know him will cheerfully admit. As a young man of talents, integrity and excellent business habits, he stands deservedly high in the community.

Philadelphia is famous for its lawyers and judicial investigations—its jurors, financiers and great men. It takes them about two weeks to try an action for libel, and the jury another to agree upon a verdict, with which they sometimes send up a bill of four or five hundred dollars, for the county to pay, for suppers, wines and cigars.

The Miners' Journal, from an article published in that paper, estimates the actual amount of silver in the United States at \$30,400,000. This we should think a mistake. The opinion heretofore entertained, was that it amounted to about 80,000,000, and this we doubt is more nearly correct. The banks, we presume, must have 25 or 30 millions in their vaults. In Pennsylvania, we are confident, between 5 and 10 millions are hoarded up by individuals.

The last snake Buzzle story, going the rounds of the newspapers, we can assure our fair readers, is not true. It is nothing but a new version of the old Buzzle story, told by one of the Boston papers a year or two since. We believe it to be nothing but a sheer invention got up by some bachelor editors, who probably, being too frequently troubled with a "snake in the hat," wish to assign the animal another local habitation and a name.

Imprisonment for debt has been abolished in Missouri. Prospectively, we presume.

A new method of gilding by galvanism, has been recently discovered.

SILVER SPOONS.—It is computed, that about \$600,000 are annually expended in this country, in the manufacture of silver spoons, for new families and others going to house keeping.

Mrs. Trollope mentions, that in a certain city of Germany, a young woman was in prison, who was convicted of having murdered sixty young children by poison, while leaving them under her charge as a nurse.

The following toast was given at a recent celebration in Connecticut: By Dr. Rogers. Cotton—A material in high repute among ladies and warriors for the erection of breast-works. (Peals of laughter and great cheering.)

The legislature think of repealing the law abolishing imprisonment for debt. The people in this section, are almost unanimous in favor of its repeal.

Small Notes. We are glad to see, that Mr. Kidder of the Senate has reported a bill, authorizing the Banks to issue small bills, redeemable in specie, on demand. The Relief notes will, under the late act, disappear rapidly, and as they are the almost exclusive currency of the country, some immediate substitute should be made to supply the vacuum occasioned by their loss. Unless this is done, business must come to a stand. Had our banks been enabled to issue small bills, we do not believe the last suspension would have taken place. It was the small bills alone that saved the banks of the State of New York from suspension, most of which are less sound than our own. All that we have heard speak on the subject, approve of the measure. We are confident that we speak the sentiments of nine-tenths of the community, in saying that this measure would be as popular, as the Relief act was unpopular, among the people. In their tendencies and nature, they are as opposite as the poles. The act which gave the banks the privilege of issuing Relief-bills, also granted them the privilege of unlimited suspension for five years. The present bill, as we understand it, requires the Banks to resume, upon which condition they will be permitted to issue small bills payable in specie. These small bills will of course be at par throughout the state, and can be converted into silver at any time; whereas the Relief bills were never convertible into anything but state stock, which now sells for less than half its par value. The one is a measure for the resumption of specie payments, and the circulation of specie and specie funds; the other is a measure for the suspension of specie payments, and the introduction and circulation of irredeemable shin plasters, in their value, as fluctuating as the wind. We trust the legislature will act promptly and decisively upon the matter. There is but one opinion in the community upon the subject, and that opinion is in favor of the measure. In Shamokin, we understand, there are several petitions in circulation in favor of the measure, which have been unanimously signed, without distinction of party.

The Superintendent of common schools, in his report to the Legislature, says: "The whole number of schools in the reporting districts, are 6,116; the number of schools yet required, 554; the average number of months taught in these schools, 5 months, 9 days; the number of male teachers, 5,176, and of females, 2,316. The average salaries of male teachers per month, are \$18.58; the average of female teachers per month \$11.16. The number of male scholars is 154,454; that of female scholars, 126,631. The number learning the German language, 5,141. The average number of scholars in each school, is 44; and the cost of tuition of each scholar per month is \$00 42, or \$1 27 per quarter.

The amount paid to reporting districts during the last school year, was \$229,629, and the amount of school tax levied in those districts, for the same year, was \$386,177.31. The whole amount of school appropriation paid to accepting districts, was \$238,162. Some of these were new districts, which had not before accepted the schools system, consequently a report could not be expected from them. They were also entitled to their share of the annual State appropriation, which had accumulated for them in the treasury. The whole amount of tax levied in all those districts, reported to this department, was \$398,756.40. The amount paid for instruction in the reporting districts, for that year, was \$425,501.27. The amount paid for fuel and contingences, was \$41,044.45, and the whole amount paid for school houses, was \$113,339.66."

Parson Miller's Creed. As many of our readers may not be acquainted with Parson Miller's Creed, we publish the following synopsis of his views. In this age of Hamburgs, the Parson stands about number one in the list:

- 1. I believe Jesus Christ will come again to this earth.
- 2. I believe he will come in all the glory of his Father.
- I also believe he will come in the clouds of heaven.
- 3. I believe he will then receive his kingdom, which will be eternal.
- 4. I believe the saints will then possess the kingdom forever.
- 5. I believe at Christ's second coming the body of every departed saint will be raised; like Christ's glorious body.
- 6. I believe, also, that the righteous who are living on the earth when he comes, will be changed from mortal to immortal bodies, and with them who are raised from the dead, will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and so be forever with the Lord.
- 7. I believe the saints will then be presented to God blameless, without spot or wrinkle, in love.
- 8. I believe when Christ comes the second time, he will come to finish the controversy of Zion, to deliver his children from all bondage, to conquer their last enemy, and to deliver them from the power of the tempter, which is the devil.
- 9. I believe when Christ comes he will destroy the bodies of the living wicked by fire, as those of the old world were destroyed by water, and shut up their souls in a pit of woe, until their resurrection unto damnation.
- 10. I believe when the earth is cleansed by fire, that Christ and his saints will then take possession of the earth, and dwell therein forever.—Then the kingdom will be given to the saints.
- 11. I believe the time is appointed of God when these things shall be accomplished.
- 12. I believe God has revealed the time.
- 13. I believe many who are professors and preachers will never believe or know the time until it comes upon them.
- 14. I believe the wise, they who are to shine as the brightness of the firmament, Dan. xii. 3, will understand the time.
- 15. I believe the time can be known by all who desire to understand and to be ready for his coming.

Correspondence of The American. HARRISBURG, Feb. 9, 1843. DEAR SIR:—The legislature has been engaged for some days past, in debating a resolution to take the appointment of Canal Commissioners out of the hands of the Governor, and placing it in the hands of the legislature. If any change is made at all, it should be to give the people the power of electing them.

Mr. Eyer presented a petition of members of the bar of Union county, asking for the removal of the Supreme Court from Salisbury to Harrisburg. This move is made for the exclusive accommodation of a few members of the bar, it seems, who will, if they can effect a removal, be enabled to flee their unfortunate Senators to a greater extent. There is no danger, however, of the bill passing.

In the House, on Saturday last, Mr. Lowry offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to bring in a bill on Monday next, to repeal the act of last session, abolishing imprisonment for debt, so far as the same applied to debts then contracted. This resolution was taken up for consideration—Yeas 28, nays 54—Mr. McDaniel moved a postponement for the present, which was negatived. Mr. Hahn then moved an amendment, instructing the committee to report a bill to repeal the law unconditionally. On this amendment there was quite a debate, in which Messrs. Ellwell, Deford, Lowry, Kame, Tustin, and others took part. The amendment was negatived, yeas 32—nays 52. The resolution was finally modified to instruct the committee to inquire into the expediency of repealing or modifying the law of last session, so far as it applies to debts then contracted, and in this form it passed. Yeas 93—nays 22. The present law is probably the most unpopular law that has been enacted for some years. There was no occasion in making the law take retrospective effect, and, I think the legislature will amend it, or repeal the law entirely.

Mr. Kame reported a joint resolution to prevent the use of the public works on Sunday. Mr. Deford read in place, a bill entitled an act to regulate the judicial districts of this commonwealth. This bill divides the State into 15 districts, instead of 23, as now exist. Mr. Rounfroot read in place, a bill relative to the Tide Water Canal Notes, providing for their redemption—made the order of the day to-morrow.

In Senate, several petitions were presented, by Myers, Cochran and Champneys, that the banks may be authorized to issue small notes. X. Y. Z.

Appointments by the Canal Commissioners. GEORGE LEISLEBING, Supervisor from Junction to Milton.

THOMAS BENNETT, Supervisor from Milton to head of the West Branch line. One Supervisor dispensed with.

JOHN YOUNGMAN, Collector of tolls and towing path bridge at Northumberland.

A. C. BARRETT, Weigh Master, at Northumberland.

JOHN B. BECK, Collector at Williamsport.

DAVID A. KAWSON, Supervisor, from Northumberland to Athens on the North Branch. A reduction of one Supervisor.

The following resolution has been adopted by the Canal Commissioners. Resolved, That the Supervisors of repairs on the several divisions of the Pennsylvania canal, be and they are hereby instructed to repair their lines for navigation, in the most economical manner, so as to let in the water at as early a day as possible.

Protracted Meetings. During the last four or five weeks we have had protracted meetings in our places at the different churches of the Methodist, Baptist and Lutheran, which were all well attended, both day and night, during this period; and we understand with similar success in their object. It is with the strongest feeling of sympathy we observe the course and untiring zeal which is extended by the leaders of our churches in their exertions to secure the future welfare of their fellow-beings, by their unremitting labor, during the excitement, which has been extremely fatiguing.

This has a tendency to re-form, of which we need much. Not only at Danville has this religious excitement been prevailing, but we learn from almost every quarter, similar are the consequences where protracted meetings have been held. The number converted to the faith of religion in our immediate neighborhood, is very large, and we understand there has been upwards of 80, in the month of January, attached to the Methodist Episcopal Church at Danville, besides large numbers to the other different denominations.—Dan. Intell.

A DUEL PREVENTED.—A duel had been prevented, by the proper interference of friends, that had been arranged between Mr. J. H. Pleasant, the editor of the Whig, and Mr. W. F. Ritchie, the son of the editor of the Enquirer. Mr. Ritchie, it is said, was the challenger, and the terms were twenty-five paces; fowling pieces loaded with twelve buckshot each; the guns to be laid at the feet of the combatants, and at the word "fire," each was to seize his gun and fire within the time "three." Saturday evening was the time fixed.

The friends decided that Mr. Pleasant should retract his article of the 17th January, and that Mr. W. F. Ritchie withdraw his challenge, which had been accepted by Mr. Pleasant, and those gentlemen restored to their former relations. The decision was acquiesced in by the parties.—Richmond Paper.

The Memphis Appeal mentions a rumor that four or five acres of land upon the St. Francis River, Ark., were sunk by the late earthquake.