THE BATH OF THE LORD

VOLUME XII.—NO. 21.

WESTERLY, R. I., FIFTH-DAY, MAY 24, 1866.

WHOLE NO. 1135.

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions,

Wissahickon, Philadelphia.

PUBLISHED BY GEORGE H. TAYLOR.

THE SEVENTH DAY IS THE SABBATH OF THE LORD THY GOD.

FOURTH SABBATH AFTER EASTER.

A FRIENDLY LETTER.

TO THE INQUIRING FRIEND, WHO ASKED ABOUT THE BAPTISM OF INFANTS.

The subject of infant baptism is one which has been much discussed among our brethren, and for some time has been the topic of considerable controversy. The question is whether or not infant baptism is scriptural, and if so, whether it should be practiced in the churches.

The verses quoted by the inquirer are found in the New Testament, and they are usually cited in support of the doctrine of infant baptism. The passage in Ephesians 5:27 is said to teach that Christ is the head of the church, and the church is the body of Christ. The passage in Colossians 1:19 is said to teach that Christ is the image of the invisible God, and the church is the body of Christ.

The inquirer asks whether these passages prove that infant baptism is scriptural. The answer to this question depends upon the interpretation given to the words in these passages. In the passage in Ephesians 5:27, the word "head" is used metaphorically, and it does not necessarily mean that Christ is the head of the church in a literal sense. The same is true of the word "body" in Colossians 1:19. The passages are not intended to teach that infant baptism is scriptural, but rather that Christ is the head and body of the church.

Another passage cited by the inquirer is in John 3:5, where Jesus says, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." The inquirer asks whether this passage supports the doctrine of infant baptism. The answer is no, because the context of the passage shows that it refers to spiritual regeneration, and not to physical baptism.

The question of infant baptism is one which should be considered carefully, and the decision should be based upon a careful study of the Scriptures. The practice of infant baptism is a matter of personal conviction, and should not be forced upon others.

May the Lord bless you in your inquiry.

E. A. SMITH.
IN REMOVAL.

The President has ordered the removal of the marriage of Mr. William Smith of Middlesex county, Alabama, from Mr. John Adams of the same county, who has been held as chief or principal officer of the county, and of all other officers, by the order of the United States District Court at Shreveport, La., to the seat of the government at Washington, D.C., and the same has been ordered to be done by the local authorities at the seat of the government.