

**THE BAPTISM, OR THE
LITTLE INQUIRER:
DESIGNED FOR THE USE
OF SABBATH SCHOOLS**

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The Baptism, or the Little Inquirer: Designed for the Use of Sabbath Schools by Willson Jewell

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WILLSON JEWELL

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THE
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OR THE
LITTLE INQUIRER.

DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

BY WILSON JEWELL, M. D.

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THE BAPTISM;

OR, THE LITTLE INQUIRER.

CHAPTER I.

“TELL me, mother, if Mr. Edgar's three sons, who were taken last Sabbath afternoon to the church, and sprinkled with water out of a large stone basin, have been baptized? and if they have, whether they have got new hearts? because father told us the Bible speaks of only one kind of baptism; and that is, covering the whole body with water: and I remember he said we must go and confess our sins to God, and repent, and have a new heart, before we could be baptized. I'm sure I do not know how it is; for there is Henry Edgar, who is a little baby, and cannot talk, yet he was baptized; how did he confess his sins? Indeed, I should not think he had done any sins to be sorry for. And as for

Richard, I asked him, when he told me he had been to the church to get baptized, if he had repented, and he laughed in my face, and said, 'What do you mean by repented?' You, my dear mother, have always said it was a very solemn thing to be baptized, but Richard Edgar is not solemn; he laughs, and talks, and plays, just as ever he did: do you think he has got a new heart? I do believe, mother, that we are as good children as the Edgars, and you and father I know are a great deal better than either of their parents. We have family prayers; and when I asked Richard if they had, he said no, it was enough for them to go to church and say prayers: we never go to the theatre nor to balls, but Mr. Edgar has a season ticket for the theatre, and goes every night; and Richard told me that he went to a dancing-school and to cotillon parties every Saturday evening. Now, may be, if you would take us and have us baptized, in the way the Edgars were, God would give us new hearts; oh! how I should like to have a new heart and be baptized! I do n't think it is so hard a

thing to get a new heart as our teacher in the Sabbath school says it is. I am bad enough; but I know that Richard Edgar is a great deal worse than I am; and if he could receive a new heart and be baptized, I do not know what there is to prevent me."

Such was the simple but tender address which Charles Singleton made to his affectionate mother, one evening, when they were alone in the dining-room.

Mr. Singleton was a merchant extensively engaged in business in Philadelphia, where he resided with his family; and both himself and wife were members of the Baptist church. They had been consistent professors of religion for several years, and had endeavored to impress upon the minds of their children the necessity of embracing, early in life, the religion of the Savior. Their pious example was a model worthy of imitation. Their instruction, which they were from time to time in the habit of imparting to their children, was wholesome and profitable; but only when a suitable occasion presented did they attempt to enforce the principles of the Chris-

tian religion; and even then it was by easy and familiar illustrations, applied in the most affectionate manner, with gentleness and kindness, but always faithfully and prayerfully.

Family worship was observed regularly, and with much humility, in Mr. Singleton's family circle. The reading of the Word of God at such times was always followed by a short explanation from the parents, which rendered this part of the exercise more interesting and profitable; and when bowed in prayer, the exposed condition of their offspring was earnestly presented. Oh! how often would they wrestle in prayer for a blessing on their little ones; and that they themselves might receive wisdom and direction from above, to enable them to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

In addition to this Charles Singleton was a Sabbath school scholar, and at an early period of his childhood was led to the house of God, and taught by his affectionate parents to keep holy the Sabbath.