AN OUTLINE OF THE ARGUMENT AGAINST THE VALIDITY OF LAY-BAPTISM

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An Outline of the Argument against the Validity of Lay-Baptism by John D. Ogilby

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JOHN D. OGILBY

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ARGUMENT AGAINST

THE

VALIDITY OF LAY-BAPTISM.

BY

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"ONE LORD, ONE PAITH, ONE BAPTISM."

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TO

THE RIGHT REVEREND FATHERS,

THE

BISHOPS OF THE CHURCH IN AMERICA,

CHIEF PASTORS OF THE FLOCK OF CHRIST AND

STEWARDS OF THE MYSTERIES OF GOD,

THIS BUMBLE EFFORT

TO ILLUSTRATE AN IMPORTANT POINT OF DOCTRINE

AND DISCIPLING,

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED BY

THEIR SERVANT IN CHRIST,

THE AUTHOR.

"In this discourse, I have no aim to displease any, nor any hope to please all. If I can help on to truth in the Church and the peace of the Church together, I shall be glad, be it in any measure. Nor shall I spare to speak necessary truth, out of too much love of peace, nor thrust on unnecessary truth to the breach of that peace, which once broken is not so easily soldered again. And if for necessary truth's sake only, any man will be offended, nay take, nay snatch at, that offence which is not given, I know no fence for that. It is truth, and I must tell it; it is the gospel, and I must preach it. And far safer it is in this case to bear anger from men, than a wo from God."

Laud's Conference with Fisher.

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PREFACE.

THE Author of this "Outline" is aware that some apology may be thought necessary for bringing forth, into the open arena of public discussion, a subject, which has been suffered to repose in unbroken silence during the whole period that has elapsed since the independent organization of the Church in America. It is true that the subject has not been wholly unheeded; that the principles advocated in these pages have been secretly and quietly gaining ground; and that they have been practically carried out in many instances within the last few years; but still noiselessly and almost invisibly. Nor would the present writer have taken upon himself the responsibility of disturbing the even tenor of their way, had he not been constrained so to do by the instinctive impulse of selfdefence, as well as by a sense of official responsibility.

It is already known, most probably, to all the readers of this publication, that a recent Baptism by him of two persons who had previously received Lay-Baptism, has excited no small degree of attention, and has raised against him no little outcry. Some have objected to that Baptism on account of the mode adopted. He has deemed it best not to divert attention from the main question by treating of this matter on the present occasion. It may be presumed that most objectors find fault with him