

**A MANUAL OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM; OR, A  
BRIEF SUMMARY ON  
CONGREGATIONALIST VIEWS ON THE  
SUBJECT OF BAPTISM, WITH THE GROUNDS  
ON WHICH THEY REST. INTENDED  
SPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

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A Manual of Christian Baptism; Or, a Brief Summary on Congregationalist Views on the Subject of Baptism, with the Grounds on Which They Rest. Intended Specially for Young People by John M. Charlton

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BY  
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## PREFACE.

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THIS little work is intended to meet the wants of a large class of persons, particularly among the younger members of our congregations, who are precluded, by want of leisure, from the perusal of more learned and elaborate treatises. To such treatises the author very readily acknowledges his own obligations, and more especially to the very able and complete investigations of Dr. Halley and Professor Godwin, to which he would refer those of his readers, who desire further information on the subject.

The author has carefully sought to avoid, in the following pages, every expression, which may present reasonable ground of offence to those, who differ from Congregationalists on the questions here discussed. The cause of truth is not promoted by harsh or flippant words, or by charges such as that of complicity with ritualism, or any others, which, whether well founded or not, might with advantage be replaced by lucid explanations and sound arguments.



The present work is not written for the purpose of controversy, but in order to assist in the religious education of the young, in those principles and usages which have, as we assuredly believe, the sanction of Holy Scripture. Accordingly, the writer's main reliance has been throughout, on Biblical evidence, which he has endeavoured, as far as possible, to present in a form suited to the class of readers to whom he addresses himself, though, at the expense, in some cases, of much of its force. His great difficulty has been to observe the just mean between a degree of brevity, which would have involved serious obscurity and omission, and a fulness of illustration, which would have enlarged the volume to an inconvenient size. However, such as it is, the work is commended to the blessing of God, in the earnest hope that it may in some degree subserve the purpose for which it has been written.

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