

THE ACT

OF

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

By J. R. GRAVES

CHAP. VII. THE ADMINISTRATOR OF BAPTISM.

The question is often asked, and it may be asked by the reader, "To whom should I apply for Christian baptism?" The question is an important one; since, if you are not baptized by the proper authority, let the act be what it may, the act is null and void. A foreigner seeking citizenship in this government must apply to an officer of the government, and the one authorized to give him his papers. He may not apply to any officer, and certainly not to an officer of another government. "How, then," you may ask "can I know the proper officer to administer Christian baptism?" It certainly is not by an examination of men and their credentials; but it is required of you to find a church that administers the act which Christ commanded, and for the purpose and to the subjects Christ requires, and that church will furnish the proper officer—for it is the church that administers the rite and not the officer, per se—he is but the hand, the servant of the church. The ordinances of baptism and the Supper were not intrusted to the ministry to administer to whomsoever they deem qualified, but to the churches, to be observed by them "as they were delivered unto them." (I Cor. xi: 2.) Every common reader of the New Testament can easily decide between the different religious societies claiming to be churches of Christ, which one of them all administers baptism as here set forth; for only one denomination does thus administer it.