

36 A
of John's father's death - which seemed sud-
den to me. Dear Jane and Maggie have had
some hard trials to bear, but I am glad to be-
lieve they have long known where to look for
comfort. - I do not doubt that it is a trying
circumstance to cousin Elizabeth S. Hopkins &
others of his family, that William Scholfield
should have withdrawn from Friends, and been
baptized. His mother was such a firm & useful
Elder, that I did not expect any of her children
would so far forget her instructions. I fear many
put too much dependence on this rite. One thing
I know - water cannot wash away my sins. The
Apostle says plainly, "The baptism which now saveth,
is not the putting away the filth of the flesh, which
we know water can do, but ^{the} answer of a good con-
science toward God." But ^{it} is right to have Charity
for all. I consider the different Denominations
as so many paths leading to the same blessed
heaven, and that it is wrong to fall out by the
way, and thereby miss that glorious consum-
mation. - There seems no change for the better
from all I hear in our Cousin Rachel Hopkins's
condition. Poor, dear Cousin Lizzie! how