

and to your children." How would his audience understand this, but as showing that under the new dispensation their children as well as themselves were to enjoy precious privileges;—in a word—that the covenant and the promise were unchanged.

6. There is nothing in the genius of the gospel to exclude children. Behold how the Saviour treats them. Mark x. 13-16. Some parents bring young children, (in Luke, "infants,") to Christ for his blessing. The disciples repel them, but their Lord encourages their approach. He takes them up in his arms, lays his hands on them, and blesses them. But it is objected, "he did not baptize them." True.

1. "Jesus himself did not baptize." See John iv. 2.

2. It is not unlikely that these children had been baptized already. Their parents were evidently believers in Jesus, or they would hardly have brought them to him for a blessing.

3. Even though these infants were not baptized either by Christ or his disciples, it would be no proof against the point we are contending for, because baptism was not yet formally instituted as a standing rite in the Christian Church.

This circumstance is introduced here to show, which it does conclusively, that the Saviour encouraged the dedicatory presentation of children to God,—that he manifested his condescending grace by taking them in his arms and blessing them, and that he exhibited the real nature of the gospel dispensation, by declaring, "of such is the Kingdom of heaven." To make this latter expression mean, "grown persons of childlike dispositions," is a pitiful evasion of the argument here furnished in favour of infant baptism. Our Lord might as well have said, "Suffer lambs or doves to come unto me, for persons of a lamb-like, or dove-like disposition belong to my kingdom."

7. "It may not be out of place to refer here to a passage in Paul's writings, which clearly shows how children are to be regarded under the present dispensation. I refer to 1st Cor. vi. 14. An attempt has been made by some to prove that Paul only asserts here, that these children