

the infection, but which has not yet had time to develop. Our children do need the promise, and, it is their's thank God equally with being ours.

A child is not as heavy as a man, is more readily lifted from danger. In the burning building a child can be carried. Not so easily or so safely a bewildered or insensible man. Yet rescue is required, escape to be urged; that it is easier only renders more criminal the neglect of means.

A dying mother prayed, "Jesus, take my little ones to thy love. Some children are converted early—let mine be—Paul and Cecil and baby." Do not the words of our text justify that prayer? Some seem very fearful of young converts. Scripture does not justify that fear, on the contrary Jesus said, "Suffer the children to come." True, old heads are not on young shoulders, God did not intend they should be, or he would have placed them there; a little girl therefore is none the less a christian because she likes to play with her doll, or a boy because he enjoys leap-frog. We do not exclude a man because he likes a gold chain, or a woman because she wears a feather in her bonnet. When God gave as the seal of his covenant circumcision at eight days old, he emphasized this truth "to your children," and taught that they had their place in the congregation of the Lord. The acorn is not the sapling, the sapling not the king of the forest; so the child is not the youth, nor the youth the mature man; but the Godly child grows into a more perfect Godly man than does the wayward child, the rebellious youth. The crooked sapling develops without fail the crooked unsightly tree. Crooked trees have their uses. knots make beautiful veneers, but we do not cultivate crooked trees, or encourage the growth of knots.

In the light of these FACTS (emphasize that word *facts*.) infant baptism has teachings, deep and earnest, stamping the ordinance with heaven's own seal. If baptism is of any use to adults in outwardly sealing them members of Christ's Kingdom, why is it useless in regard to those concerning whom Christ says, "of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Let children be trained to view themselves as inheritors of the promises, which certainly are not the exclusive possession of those of riper years, and the church will not mourn so much their loss.

Why encourage weeds to grow in virgin soil? or the spirit of alienship in youth? Encourage them not to come, but to *remain* in.

Have children of christian parents any special relation to the church and to christianity? See 1 Cor. vii, 14. That passage certainly teaches something in this connection. It at least asserts that family ties do in some manner in themselves consecrate those who are bound by them, and that the children of christian parents may therefore be considered as in some sense included, as in the old covenant, within the congregation of the Lord. Parents, are you recognizing this relation, and suffering your children to come? or by indifference are you forbidding?

Children, you have been made heirs of the promises. Consider how solemnly you have been dedicated to God and cast not that blessing from you. You have been born in a christian land; you have been baptized into the name of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, thus placed under discipleship, (Mat. xxviii, 19) in the school of Christ to learn concerning Him. These blessings will not save you unless you use them. But they are for you to use, take them and be not guilty of not only neglecting, but throwing away this great salvation. "Wilful waste makes woeful want." God keep you from the eternal beggary of the soul.

"O thou, whose infant feet were found
Within thy Father's shrine,
Whose years, with changeless virtue crowned,
Were all alike divine;
Dependent on thy bounteous breath
We seek thy grace alone,
In childhood, manhood, age and death,
To keep us still thine own."

HOME RULE.

REV. C. E. GORDON-SMITH.

Home rule—that's been the cry of the years across the Atlantic in that beautiful but internally disturbed Emerald Isle, a land of wit, poetry and eloquence, but alas also of poverty, superstition, discontent, social blight and political agitation. Why should she be shoeless, foodless, homeless, while the other bairns of Britain are better clad? Is the secret in the fact that while Sandy and Jack are looking after the field or the factory, Paddy is counting his beads and bending at the shrine, since Priest-craft and poverty often walk hand in