

long you may safely keep your offspring in ignorance ; but by what course you may most speedily, and successfully engage their infant attention, and affections to Him, who, when on earth, gave such proofs of his affection for them.

The necessity for the earliest inculcation of religious principles on children being established, it would be questioning, not only the mercy, but the justice of God, to question the possibility of their understanding what is sufficient to Salvation : it would be an insinuation that God has made that necessary, which is impracticable, or has imposed conditions which it is impossible to perform. But so far from this being the case, it is the distinguishing feature of the Gospel, that it is especially adapted to the young and unlearned, whose simple and uncavilling disposition is that, to which the Gospel of Christ most readily and congenially recommends itself. " Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings, thou hast perfected praise." " I thank thee, O Father," (says the Saviour) " that thou hast hid these things from the wise, and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." " Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven. It is precisely this teachable simple-mindedness of a child, to which the proudest intellect must be reduced, before it can receive the things of God ; and he who refuses to embrace the Gospel till he can answer every how? and why? which curiosity, or scepticism may pro-