

efficiency all the time because many of our people are not taught the nature and practical uses of the baptism of children, and the grand truths and principles to which the ordinance points. They fail to realize the holy binding which it lays upon them, bringing the home and all its members under law to Christ. That most precious and expressive which Christ appointed ought to be one of the most effective instruments for promoting Christian life and keeping the young in the fold where the Good Shepherd has put them. And yet sufficient advantage is not taken of it by parents, and our gross neglect becomes the occasion for blame against the ordinance itself, especially when the baptized are treated as aliens. We are persuaded that some comply simply because it is a custom, or an expressive rite, and not because they see the full advantage of it. With others it is merely giving a name to the child. Such would not be ready with an answer to any one who asked the question, *Cui bono?*

II. BAPTIZED CHILDREN MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.

Baptists place their children outside of the Church and count them as alien from God's people till on a personal profession of faith they are admitted. The theory leaves the rising generation outside of Christian life, and their treatment of children differs from all the dispensations of God, and runs counter to His arrangements, which is proof sufficient that it is not of God. When in baptism the attention is fixed on the infant alone, without looking to anything further, we may be inclined to ask,—“What use is there in it? What can an infant know or do in the matter?” But a moment's reflection will show this to be a very limited and partial view of the ordinance. Without discussing now the *uses* of infant baptism, we remark that one grand design is fixing the attention on the rising generation, turning the hearts of the fathers to their children, making their godly upbringing an imperative duty, and putting the true type of their moral and religious growth before the Church, viz., that children are to grow up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Baptized infants are made and recognized as disciples in the school of Christ, with a view to their future instruction. The command was to disciple all nations, and this discipline applies to infants as well as to adults. For the word does not imply *previous* learning, not even