

subject of the name carried everywhere about with him. Sometimes, among the people of God, names indicated the character and prevailing disposition of a man, as the name Abel, nothingness, humility; sometimes his divine vocation, as the name Noah, a comforter; sometimes one's lot on earth, thus Mary, bitterness; sometimes the name sealed a promise, which was given to the man, as the name of the son of Terah, Abraham, *i. e.* father of many nations; sometimes it denoted the peculiar relation of the man to God, as the name Enoch, devoted; David, beloved; and so on. Thus, it is not to be wondered at that the mind of the people of Israel took each man's name within the ground of its more serious reflections, and was accustomed to ask and to inquire what the Lord meant and wished to be understood thereby. Names were to the people like tablets of remembrance, and like the bells on the priests garments, reminding them of the Lord, and of his government, and furnishing occasion for a variety of salutary reflections. While, to the subject of the name it was a source of comfort and strength, of warning and encouragement—nay, to many a one like a cord by which he was drawn to God.

I am well aware that the man who directs a spiritual eye to such minutiae and details, as the import of names, is certain to be condemned before the tribunal of our rationally-enlightened public, and ridiculed as a narrow-minded, tasteless, and superstitious dealer in trifles. Alas! that even among believers, the faith in a God who numbers our hairs, and seeks to glorify himself in things the most minute, is practically become a rare jewel. But in whomsoever this child-like faith has yet its dwelling, who makes no distinction between great and small, and brings down the gracious God fairly with him into house and home, and sees Him sit by his side, under his vine and fig-tree, such a man is happy, and has much joy and peace, and divine delight everywhere, and wherever he goes he sees spiritual faces, and hears divine voices, in names, in dreams, in thoughts, in incidents, and all around him there is the word of God, and the sound of his feet upon the mountains, and