

came "I know you not." And this is the doom of all professors who have not the Spirit of Christ. God save us from a false assurance.

*Secondly*, we observe that some true children of God are *not certain* about their salvation. I fear there are too many in that condition. They have been born again, their sins forgiven, and their names written in heaven, and yet they have their doubts about it. What are the causes of this uncertainty? We will mention three. (a) The man may be only a *babe* in Christ. He has only been recently born into God's family; or if born of God some time ago his growth has been so slow, his faculties so little developed, that his maturity is not sufficient to teach him whose he is. We are not surprized that the infant of a week does not know his parents; we expect he will grow and in a short time will be able to recognize his parents and brothers and sisters; but how sad are the parents of a six year old boy who is such an imbecile that he knows not his name or family. And is it pleasing to God that any one should be a member of his family for years, and remain such a spiritual imbecile that he knows not who his father is? My brother, grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (b) Again a man may be uncertain about his being of God from *having fallen into sin*. A workman fell from a scaffold and was picked up as dead; so the by-standers thought at first. It was soon discovered, however, that the fall had only produced coma, not death. Yet the man himself knew not for hours whether he was dead or alive. And many a man who has been an active christian has *fallen* into sin. He is not dead, but the fall has left him in such a condition that for a time he knows not whether he is dead or alive. (c) Or again, a man may be uncertain about his salvation from neither of the above causes. He may be no babe in Christ but a strong man, living a holy and consistent life, a life far above the average, and yet be uncertain simply from *defective teaching* on this particular matter. He is loyal to God, following Christ, and hoping to be with Christ at last: but he has not been taught that GOD SAYS *that all such are now the sons of God*. Whatever be the cause of uncertainty we are always sorry for a brother who is in that condition. It is a question of paternity. We do not envy the man who does not know who his father is, God or Satan: and yet some expect to remain in that condition *till their death-bed*. What