

of salvation offered to the elect only: it is the good news of gratuitous salvation offered now to every soul of man." A curious statement! Does it proceed from ignorance, or from malice? Anyhow, the said notion is not Calvinistic. It may be held by antinomians of the Crisp and Saltmarsh type. It certainly was not held by the Westminster divines who framed our Presbyterian Confession of Faith. What does that highly Calvinistic document say of God's covenant with man? In Chapter vii, Section iii, we thus read:—"Man by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by that covenant"—the covenant of works,—“the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace; wherein he freely offered unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ, requiring of them faith in Him that they may be saved, and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto life, His Holy Spirit, to make them able and willing to believe.” Notice the two points, the universal offer and the particular promise. Also read the proof-texts, first, Mark xvi. 15-16, and John iii. 16; then, Ezek. xxxvi. 26-27, and John vi. 37-44. The universal offer shows ground for the duty of faith, whether men believe or not. The particular promise provides for the grace of faith. We all ought to believe the gospel, in order that we may be saved. If we cannot, that is our grossest sin, the evil heart of unbelief. There is a faith, a saving faith, which is the gift of God, and not of ourselves. We need it. We shall perish if we do not obtain it. But we have no right to it. If God graciously offers it to us, as he certainly does, then we are the more shamefully guilty if we refuse it. Is God to be mocked by us? He is under no necessity to keep us from destroying ourselves by our unbelief. He is not bound to bless us more than others. If we will not have mercy on ourselves, why should God have mercy on us? Why should he not permit us to perish, leaving us to our own hardheartedness and most cruel ingratitude? “Behold, ye despisers, and wonder and perish!” Ye judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life. My fellowmen, once more, in the name of God, who is in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, I beseech you to receive the grace of God while yet it is freely offered to you. May the Holy Spirit give effect to the word of Christ. How thankful we should be, that God, perfect in wisdom and justice, is so merciful! He delighteth in mercy. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”