

"I answer. They are nevertheless wicked, and being born adapted to sin, AND THEREFORE JUSTLY DAMNED, although they have not yet sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression. For as temporal death came upon them on account of original sin, SO DID ALSO ETERNAL; for God threatened both when he said: 'In dying you shall die.' *Even young serpents and the whelps of wolves, who cannot as yet harm anybody, are put to death, and with justice. How so? Because they are of such a nature, that they easily can do harm. Therefore even INFANTS ARE DESERVEDLY DAMNED, on account of the nature they have, to wit, a wicked nature and repugnant to the laws of God*"—*Op. Theol. D. Hieron. Zanchii, Tom. 4, Lib. 1, De Peccat. Orig. Cap. 4, thes. 5.*

THE SYNOD AT CAMBRIDGE, 1648, representing the Puritan churches of New England, unanimously adopted the confession of faith published by the Westminster Assembly. The churches of Connecticut did the same at Saybrook, in 1608. The Presbyterian Church in the United States holds it as its confession. And this confession contains the following language:—

"Elect infants, dying in infancy, are regenerated and saved by Christ through the Spirit, who worketh when, and where, and how he pleaseth. So also are all other elect persons, who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the word.

"Others not elected, although they may be called by the ministry of the word, and may have some common operations of the Spirit, yet they never truly come unto Christ, and therefore cannot be saved; much less can men not professing the Christian religion be saved in any other way whatsoever, be they never so diligent to frame their lives according to the light of nature, and the law of that religion they do profess; and to assert and maintain that they may, is very pernicious, and to be detested."

The Helvetic divines express their views in these emphatic words:—

"That there is election AND REPROBATION OF INFANTS as well as of adults, WE CANNOT DENY AGAINST GOD, who tenderly loves, and inculpably HATES them before they are born."—*Acta Dordrechtana Judicia Theologorum Exteriorum, p. 50.*

ARCHBISHOP USHER, in his Body of Divinity, p. 165, ed. 1702, says:—

"How does God suffer them to run into condemnation?"

"In a divers manner: Some REPROBATES DYING INFANTS, others of riper years, of which latter sort some are not called, others called.

"How doth God deal with reprobates dying infants?"

"Being once conceived, they are in a state of death, (Rom. 5:14,) by reason of the sin of Adam imputed, and of original corruption cleaving to their nature, wherein also DYING THEY PERISH. As (for instance) the children of heathen parents."