

when his beloved Master should be no longer personally present with him, still continue to prove the fervor of that love—*Jesus saith unto him, Feed my Lambs.* The Prophet Isaiah predicted this peculiar trait of character, under this beautiful image: *He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, he shall gather the LAMBS in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.*

It is difficult to conceive how they, who so violently oppose infant Baptism as a vain, and insignificant, and useless rite, can reconcile these passages from the sacred Scripture to their principles and feelings. For our own part, we are convinced, by such authority, of the correctness of the assertion in Art. of Religion XXVII., that “the Baptism of young children is in any wise to be retained in the Church as most agreeable to the institution of Christ.”

We cannot conclude this Essay more appropriately than by the exhortation immediately following, which is in itself so beautiful and impressive a comment on the above cited portion of St. Mark’s Gospel that it requires no addition from us. Indeed, its application of “this Gospel” to the child then presented at the baptismal font, is so deeply affecting that it must needs search the very heart of every mother, and inspire it with love and gratitude towards that adorable Lord, who hath manifested such love and affection for her helpless and precious babe.

Beloved, ye hear in this Gospel the words of our Saviour Christ, that he commanded the children to be brought unto him; how he blamed those that would have kept them from him; how he exhorteth all men to follow their innocency. Ye perceive how, by his outward gesture and deed, he declared his good will toward them; for he embraced them in his arms, he laid his hands upon them, and blessed them. Doubt ye not, therefore, but earnestly believe, that he will likewise favourably receive *this present Infant*; that he will embrace *him* with the arms of his mercy; that he will give unto *him* the blessing of eternal life, and make *him partaker* of his everlasting kingdom. Wherefore, we being thus persuaded of the good will of our heavenly Father towards *this infant*, declared by his Son Jesus Christ; and nothing doubting, but that he favourably alloweth this charitable work of ours, in bringing *this Infant* to his Holy Baptism; let us faithfully and devoutly give thanks unto him;

C. S.

(To be continued.)