

fection, as Dr. Chalmers strikingly expresses it, will lead the true disciple of Christ to shun those scenes of vanity and worldly display. Let professors of the truth stand by their principles, and thus maintain a clear conscience and an untarnished reputation—avoiding all appearance of evil.

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"HAVE YE NEVER READ, OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES AND SUCKLINGS, THOU HAST PERFECTED PRAISE?"

The Scribes and Ministers of the temple were greatly disconcerted, by the hearty and enthusiastic acclamations with which the children greeted our Lord. As, in our demonstrations of joyous welcome to our Royal Prince, the youth have taken a conspicuous part; so their "Hosannas to the Son of David," constituted a characteristic feature of the Messiah's triumphal reception at Jerusalem, on occasion of his public, and final entry. In this there was nothing incongruous. Our Lord reminds the rulers of the temple, that so far from accounting these youthful hosannas an intrusion, they should have anticipated and encouraged them, as a part of the Divine programme, published long beforehand.

The God of Abraham has always been mindful of the *children*. He gave them a pledge of blessing, from the very beginning. Of *such* was the church of old, as constituted in Abraham's household. Indeed the infant *Isaac*, was from the day of his birth, the most important member of it. The seed of the church were consecrated from the womb, to the Lord, and received in their flesh, the seal of God's claim in them, and of His promises to them. That precious covenant, with its large provisions for all nations, *in Christ*, was so expressed, that the children should be habitually kept in prominent regard. God never overlooked the children, under the old economy; much less would He, under the more gracious administration of Christ! The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is expressly promised to *them*. "For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground; I will *pour my Spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring*; and they shall spring up, among the grass; as willows by the water-courses. One shall say, I am the Lord's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel."—Isaiah, xlv, 3-5. The evident purport of this promise, is, that such copious out-pourings of the Spirit shall be bestowed upon the seed of the Church, in the latter days, that our offspring shall spring up with rapid, luxuriant growth of piety, early acknowledging the Lord's claims, and joyfully accepting in a Christian profession, the covenant relation to the God of Israel, into which they had already been brought.

Again, the Lord says, (Joel ii, 28,) "It shall come to pass afterwards, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons, and your daughters shall prophesy." They shall not only become distinguished by their piety; but by remarkable spiritual endowments, qualifying them for the various works of service which the world-wide aggressions of the Gospel church would require.

Well might our Lord reply to the rulers of the temple, who were inclined to repress the children's hosannas,—“Have ye never read,—‘Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings, thou hast perfected praise?’” One of the most striking characteristics of Christ's ministry on earth, was his *prompt re-*