

upon those, who are "to shew forth his praises to another age." And surely he will not "scorn their prayer."

3. By being recognized as members of the church, a deeper interest by far, will be felt in them, than if they were regarded as heathens, which they must be, if there were nothing to connect them with the church of God. Out of this interest for them, will come not only special prayers, but also superintendence. "Viewing baptism as introducing infants to a visible state of discipleship, we are to consider others as teachers and overlookers of these disciples : and then the usefulness of such an institution will display itself before us. We see an infant baptized.—If our views terminated there, alas, what is it?—The baptism of a baby. Things that are little in themselves, become great by their connexion with, and relation to others. We see an infant baptized—What does it import? He is received into discipleship, i. e. to be a scholar in a christian school. Now carry your views into the department of parents, pastors, elders, and members ; and listen to the silent language of this institution. "Parents, Pastors, and people pray for us ; during our tender infancy pray for us. And when matured by age, cause the doctrine you profess, to drop upon us as the rain, to distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as showers upon the grass. Watch over us with united care and bring us up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." It is a dispensation grand and merciful, calculated most powerfully to turn the attention of the church to the concerns of those who are rising into life, and posting into eternity. *

4. Few things can be supposed better fitted to impress a parent's mind with the obligation which lies upon him, to train up a child in the fear of God than this, that he has in a solemn service, given his child to God and pledged himself by solemn vows, to rear it for God. If the service impress the parent's mind and lead him to be faithful, the infant must have the benefit of it.—The parent's fervent prayers and his conscientious and persevering diligence in forming the principles and guiding the affections of his interesting charge, are just the means which God has provided for the religious training of the young. And his prayers will be the more persevering from the fact he is pledged by his own vows to educate them for God.

That churches and parents are often neglectful of their duty to the young, is confessed, and cannot be too deeply lamented. Their remissness may, to a certain extent, be accounted for, from their incorrect ideas respecting the nature of baptism and the relation in which a baptized child stands to them and to the church. Were the church and parents to act their part faithfully, what a change should soon be seen upon society ! Instead of the youth of both sexes learning first the ways of the world,—associating with the profane and the ungodly,—acquiring habits of thought-

* Edwards on Baptism.