

scripture, whose parents were christians. I am persuaded you have not generally sufficiently examined this subject ; I would request you not only to read these letters with candour, but to take pains to get some larger treatise, where the argument can be more satisfactory established ; there can be no harm in examining what can be said on both sides of the question. I would add.—Do not be afraid to follow the convictions of conscience, even should it issue in having your name cast out as evil, by those whom you love. President Edwards observes that it sometimes affords a better test of our faithfulness in adhering to the voice of conscience, to differ from our friends and associates, than to differ from those with whom we have never associated.

To those of you my brethren who are parents, I would ask is there not some danger that in neglecting infant baptism, you are neglecting that which God instituted for the benefit of our children, as well as ourselves. Do you not think it somewhat strange that the gospel has curtailed our privileges, and the privileges of our children ; that while the pious Jew could have his children in the church of God, and the seal of his covenant placed on them, we have no such privilege.

I add no more, I speak as to wise men : judge ye what I say ; and may the Lord give us understanding in all things, I have told you what I conceive to be the truth, plainly, but not with any design to offend or grieve any. Read with candour, and make due allowance for infirmity ; do not seek for something to be offended at, but call in that charity that hopeth all things. I do verily believe infant baptism to be an ordinance of God, and calculated to benefit his cause and people ; but it has been opposed and run down by a great many pious people, under the impression that it is an antichristian ordinance ; and that they have more light, than the church of God has had in past ages. I am persuaded they are mistaken ; and I have felt it my duty to say to them, do thyself and the cause of God no harm. If I have done this intemperately, or in a wrong spirit, forgive and pray for me. If I felt for a moment indignant, at the manner in which I was dismissed from your body, I put it all away ; I remember we are but dust, liable continually to err ; and that we hope for pardon for our innumerable sins, from the mercy of our God