

EDWARDS, whose authority as an expounder of Calvinism is above dispute, says : —

"We may well argue from these things, that INFANTS are not looked upon by God as sinless, but that they are by nature children of wrath, seeing this terrible evil comes so heavily on mankind in infancy. But besides these things, which are observable concerning the mortality of infants in general, there are some particular cases of the death of infants which the scripture sets before us, that are attended with circumstances, in a peculiar manner giving evidences of the sinfulness of such, and their just exposedness to divine wrath. As particularly,

"The destroying of the INFANTS in Sodom, and the neighboring cities; which cities, destroyed in so extraordinary, miraculous, and awful a manner, are set forth as a signal example of God's dreadful vengeance for sin, to the world in all generations; agreeable to that of the apostle, Jude, verse 7."

The text here referred to, is in these words : — "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them, in like manner giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, SUFFERING THE VENGEANCE OF ETERNAL FIRE."

To show that he believed these poor infantile victims found no relief in the future, he adds : —

"To say here, that God could make it up to those infants in another world, must be an insufficient reply. For so he could as easily have made it up to Lot, or to ten or fifty righteous if they had been destroyed in the same fire: Nevertheless, it is plainly signified, *that this would not have been agreeable to the wise and holy proceedings of the judge of all the earth.*" — *Edwards' Works*, vol. 6, pp. 252-254.

BELLAMY, the friend and disciple of Edwards, says :

"It was at God's sovereign election, — to give every child of Adam born in a Christian land, *opportunity by living*, to hear the glad tidings, or only to grant this to some, while *others die in infancy, and never hear*. Those who die in infancy, may as justly be held under law in the next world, as those that live may in this. God is under no more obligations to save those that die, than he is to save those that live; to grant the generating influences of his spirit to them, than he is to these." — *Bellamy's Works*, vol. 2, pp. 369, 370.

ZANCHIUS, who has always stood high among Calvinist writers, says : —

"Says Piglius: 'Infants are without actual sin. Therefore, although exiles from the kingdom of heaven, they will not be damned, nor receive any punishment of sense, except those of them who in the course of nature sin, either in their external or internal senses [*nisi etiam qui sensibus internis vel externis naturaliter peccant.*]'