

mother conceive me." We think too that he must be a blind observer of human nature, who can doubt or deny the inborn depravity of the human soul. Even with all the affliction of a parent we cannot be so blind. He who has seen the child of a few months old screaming with anger, or spurning impatiently all resistance to its wishes and all control over its actions,—who has traced the working of selfishness at the very dawn of intelligent action, or who has heard the boisterous outcry, with which it subordinates everything to its wayward desires,—must, we think, be blindly ignorant, or foolishly prejudiced, who perceives not the workings of a corrupt nature, which only requires development to ripen into all the wickedness, which appears in every part of the world, and which the transforming efficacy of the Holy Ghost alone can fit for the abodes of celestial purity. Farther, we cannot think much of the piety of any person, who conceives that even his infant children can be saved *without the mediation of Christ*, as they would be, if they went to heaven for their own sinlessness. Parents! who have harboured such a thought, only think that in that case your children cannot stand in the glorious company before the throne, nor join in their songs. None of them ascribe their salvation to themselves, but unitedly they give glory to the Lamb, saying: "*Thou wast slain and hast redeemed us unto God by thy blood. Salvation be to our God which sitteth on the throne, and to the Lamb.*"

Is all dark, then, regarding those who die in infancy? No, we have only been removing the false lights, that we may point you to "a more sure word to which ye do well that ye take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place." Our hope regarding infants, is, that they are among the number of those given to Christ, whom he redeemed by His blood and whom he renews by His Spirit. As it is expressed in our confession of faith: "Elect infants, dying in infancy, are regenerated and saved by Christ through the spirit, who worketh when and where and how he pleaseth."

In support of this a number of scriptural considerations may be adduced. They have committed no actual transgression, but