

is much in the phraseology adopted, as well as in the ideas attempted to be conveyed, that I *never* fully received, and that, in fact, to my mind, never became intelligible; and I fancy, for that very good reason, that

“Nonsense can ne’er be understood.”

I beg, therefore, at the outset, to disclaim any special respect for long established prejudices, for superstitious whims, and for Puseyism, either diluted or pure, whether found in creeds or forms, or the expressed opinions of any teacher of any church, Wesleyan or other. Truth alone, I trust, shall decide. It is intended, by the aid of all the light and help I can obtain by means of sincere prayer, much reading and careful thought, simply and fearlessly, and as clearly and fully as possible, to present what I believe to be correct sentiments in reference to the points involved—sentiments in accordance with Scripture, truth, and reason; an honored Trinity always in happy unity.

One very important question meets us at the threshold of the subject—*Are Children members of the Church of Christ on earth?* Without controversy, they are. It is incontrovertibly established by the plainest teachings of the Book of God, that infants and little children are—thanks to Jesus Christ!—*in a gracious state*. See Matt. xviii., 2-5; Rom. v., 12-20; Matt. xix., 14. How full the affirmation!—“Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.” If these gracious words of the Saviour mean, that children are “heirs of future glory” then are they, by essential qualification, assuredly members of the church on earth—a church including all accepted and holy persons. If the Lord Jesus Christ does *not* refer to their future state, He must then be understood simply to affirm their membership in the church on earth; and, in so doing, he instructed the Jews, that children suffer no loss by Christianity, compared with Judaism. The “Covenant of Redemptive Love” in Christ Jesus is a merciful provision of Divine Grace, extending backward and reaching forward, so as to place *every child of the human race* in a state of “Justification unto life,” and of unavoidable consequence, members of the true church on earth. “If the ‘many,’ that is, all mankind, have died through the ‘offence of one,’ certainly the ‘gift by grace,’ which abounds unto many by Jesus Christ, must have reference to every human being.”—Dr. A. Clarke. So Rev. R. Watson—“If infants are thus redeemed and sanctified in their nature, and are before death made ‘meet for the inheritance of the saints in light,’ so that in this world they are placed in the same relation to Christ as an adult believer, who derives sanctifying influence from Him; they are, therefore,