

that this interesting event sprang not from chance, nor from the will of the flesh, nor from the will of man, but from God. He gave your parents the disposition and the right, to offer you up to him; and to consecrate you to his service. He has publicly acknowledged his particular relation to you; and given you his illustrious token of his kindness and mercy. Think, then, I beseech you, of the guilt of disregarding, or neglecting, this testimony of his mercy to you. All men are bound voluntarily to become his, and to consecrate themselves to his service. To this duty you are under peculiar obligations. By openly acknowledging you as his children, He has, if I may be allowed the expression, laid claim on you in a manner, which, while it demands of you the most intense gratitude, requires of you, also, to assume the character, which he has externally conferred; and with all the heart to devote yourselves in the covenant of grace to his service and glory. All men under the Gospel are immovably bound to the performance of this duty. But the obligations, incumbent on you, are peculiar and pre-eminant. Let me request you to ponder this subject with deep and solemn concern; and to inquire with all earnestness of mind, whether you are not in imminent danger of sharing the doom of Capernaum, Chorazin and Bethsaida." (c)

I must now beg leave, Sir, to submit to your candour and forbearance this humble attempt on a subject confessedly of much importance, and which has employed the pen of many of the most distinguished men, for both piety and learning, that ever adorned the christian church. I have availed myself of the labors of the distinguished few whose names I have mentioned, from a conviction, that it would have been equally presumption in me, to have made the attempt single handed, and to have obtruded any kind of a production on the notice of the public without that sanction which is properly derived from a deference to great names, and distinguished abilities. Any thing which I may suppose to be original, has in all probability been long ago presented to the public eye, and, of course, I cannot flatter myself that any thing which I have advanced in these letters will excite your astonishment, except what may possibly excite even your disgust,—the prolixity of my remarks. On this subject, however, I beg leave to screen myself from censure, under the authority of your advice—"Not to omit any thing which I thought essential to the subject," and to avail myself of the lenity connected with your knowledge of the case, with which I might have greatly exceeded even my present limits.

Had I regarded the elegancies of language, there might possibly have been a less degree of disparity between my own style and that of the excellent citations, with which it is my chief consolation, that I have been able to fortify my cause, and adorn my pages. On this subject, I trust I can in sincerity observe; that it is as consistent with my pretensions, as it is with my acquisitions; to adopt the following quotation from the preface to your "Sermon on the lamented demise of his late Majesty." "The style is such as I use on ordinary occasions—perhaps in general free from glaring inaccuracies."

To conclude: the only thing in which I can flatter myself is, that those who will disregard, and perhaps despise, my labours, will in general, have no objections to an interest in my prayers; and I, therefore, pray the Father of the spirits of all flesh; that both the opponents and the advocates of Infant Baptism by Sprinkling, may "have their hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, as their bodies have been washed with pure water." May we all be favoured with the abundant influences of that Spirit, of whose gracious operations we all agree, that Baptism is merely symbolical, and he thereby enabled to "walk in newness of life?" Being fully persuaded that whatever may be your opinion of my labours, you will heartily unite in my prayers.

I am,

Rev'd. and very dear Sir,

Your's most respectfully,

and affectionately,

GEORGE JACKSON.

Sackville, Westmoreland, }  
May 21st, 1822.