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"THOU HAST REVEALED THEM UNTO BABES!"

That God can sanctify our infants to Himself, even from the womb, is cordially admitted by many, who, notwithstanding, would hesitate, if not positively object, to admit our little ones, at an early age, into church fellowship.

This objection rests upon the impression that little children cannot furnish credible, and satisfactory evidences of spiritual renewal. That this is a *false* impression, the writer will endeavour to prove. If it can be shewn that the acknowledged *criteria* of the new birth, in the case of adult conversions, are less applicable to *them*, the objection should be dropped.

What are these *criteria* of the new creature in Christ Jesus?

The first, and most uniform, is a *sense of sin*. The conscience is awakened to the discovery of the individual's guilt, and consequent exposure to the wrath of God. His iniquities take hold of him. He yields to the arrest of conscience in the name of God's broken law. As a general rule, where there is no remembrance of having experienced this arrest, and surrender, the evidence of conversion is essentially defective. It is thought by some, that children, brought up after a godly manner, could not have a clear experience of such conviction of sin, because their evil nature has had so little development. But it must be borne in mind, that in proportion as conscience has remained free from defilement, is its quickness, and sensitiveness to the touch of sin. Accordingly the more careful the child has been kept from contact with the evil that is in the world, and the more his own depraved nature has been restrained, in the same proportion is he *the more susceptible to the conviction of sin*. An enlightened conscience does not require a twenty, or a thirty years' career of open iniquity, as the ground of its indictment. It can render this as effectively, on the charge of offending in one point, as of breaking all the commandments.

Among the many illustrations of this, furnished by the records of the present Revival in the British Isles, one may suffice, the wonderful convictions of sin produced simultaneously in scores of children, under a sermon preached by Rev. George Stephenson, Free Church Minister at Pultneytown in the extreme north of Scotland. "On the last Sabbath of March (he says) I addressed upwards of 200 children. At the close of the service, they could no longer contain their feelings. A loud weeping began among the children. They were exhorted, prayed with, and invited to join in the singing, but they could not be quieted. Three, or four times I had pronounced