

Mr. *Brown*. ‘ If thou doest well shalt thou not have the *excellency*? And if thou doest not well *punishment* lieth at the door. And subject to thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.’ *Dr. Gill*, and most critics, construe the passage in much the same manner. To this may be added, that most of the concordances that notice any marginal readings refer to Gen. iv. 7. rendering the words “ shalt not thou have the *excellency* ?” The evidence arising from such a variety and similarity of constructions, are manifestly in opposition to the inference drawn from the passage by the patrons of offered grace.

3. *I argue against the consequence in favour of general invitations and tendered mercy, from the circumstances by which the fact is involved.*

The evidence collected from this quarter, will be to show, that Cain was not distressed concerning his soul, but was apprehensive of being subjected to Abel who was younger than himself. There were several things which gave Cain the ascendancy over his brother Abel, such as *his age*, to which much more attention and respect seemed to be paid in the early ages of mankind, than at the present day; particularly among Europeans. *His birth*—he was the first-born, by which he seemed entitled to the right of primogeniture, which involved privileges of very extensive latitude. *His name*—which signifies *possession*. And hence, Eve said, I have gotten, or have in my possession, a man, *from*, or *by*, or *with* the Lord. Or, I have gotten a man, the Lord. Meaning, no doubt, the promised Messiah. Abel’s or Hebel’s name, signified *vanity*, or *breath*, or *vapour*, or *emptiness*. This may suggest another circumstance, that Cain being the first child that was ever born into the world, he probably possessed a larger share of paternal regard than what Abel did. *His office or employment*,—this was of a superior nature; Abel was a shepherd, which was esteemed a much less honourable calling than that of an agriculturist; and Cain being the eldest he naturally chose the most honourable calling. These are circumstances which would easily operate on the mind of an evil and ambitious person like Cain,