

God care about me, who am but a child? When I am a man He will care for me,—when I am a man I will seek God. Now, this is an error, God cares as much for you as He does for the oldest and the greatest man. You have seen the fields, children, in a summer day, and you have seen there the flowers blooming in all their beauty, and the trees covered with their rich foliage. Now, does God not care as much for these tiny flowers as He does for the tall trees? Yes, quite as much. He gives to these flowers their delicate forms, their lively colours, their sweet perfume, as much as He gives to trees their giant strength, their tall stature, their green leaves. So God cares as much for the youngest and feeblest of you, as He does for the greatest and mightiest upon earth. But what shews still more clearly that you are old enough to seek God, God himself invites you to come to Him. They who seek me early, He says shall find me. Remember your Creator, He says, in the days of your youth. And not only has God thus shewn you, by these invitations put into the mouths of holy men, that you are old enough to come unto Him, but He has said so directly himself. There was once One who walked this earth in human form, to appearance a mere man, but in truth God manifest in the flesh; and on one occasion He took children younger than many of you, and lifted them up in His arms, and blessed them, and said of them: "Suffer little children to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." This was God himself telling you that you are old enough to come unto Him. But,

2. We observe, *You are old enough to commit sin.*

Some of you may think that you are too young to commit sin—that seeing you know so little, though you do at times what is amiss, that little will not be considered by God as sin. This, too, is an error. Whenever a child has come to the time when it can distinguish between right and wrong, then every offence which he commits is sin. Do you do, then, at any time, that most ungrateful of all acts—disobey your parents?—know that you commit sin, grievous sin in the sight of God. Do you do that most impious of all acts—take God's name in vain?—know that when you do so, you commit a grievous sin in the sight of God. Do you perpetrate that meanest of all acts—telling a lie?—know that in any such offence you commit a deep and grievous sin in the sight of God. And remember, that sin, in each and all of its forms, is a very pernicious thing—pernicious both in this life and in that which is to come. Sin is like a snake pretty enough in appearance,—but fatal when touched. You have perhaps seen a snake—there is scarcely a fairer creature in all creation, its skin so smooth, its spots so beauti-