

# THE MANUAL OF THE LITTLE ONES.

(By the B. Thomas a Kempis.)

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## CHAPTER. I.

### ON THE CALLING OF THE LITTLE ONES TO CHRIST.

1. "SINITE parvulos venire ad me, talium est enim regnum cœlorum." (St. Matt. xix. 14.)

"Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come to me, for the kingdom of heaven is of such."

Such are the words of JESUS Christ, our sovereign pastor and heavenly teacher, in the school of our God, which he spoke to his disciples and to the multitude, when little children were brought before him by their parents for him to lay his hands on them. And our holy Master, and sweet Lord (according to St. Mark x. 16.) embracing them, and laying his hands upon them, blessed them, and said, "Amen, I say to you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, shall not enter into it." (Ibid. v. 15.) And again, according to St. Matthew, he said to the adults, "unless you be converted, and become like little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

2. O good shepherd, and sweet master, how sweetly dost thou speak, and how truly dost thou teach, and in few words show to all men, that the right way of going to the kingdom of God is by the way of humility?

These holy words console the humble and the poor: rebuke the proud and the rich. but comfort the simple and

the innocent. For God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble" (James iv. 6.) now in this present life, and glory in that which is to come.

In all the good then which you do, or speak, or think, do not withdraw from humility, lest you lose all that you do,—for no good works avail unless they be founded in humility, and suffused with the honey of charity, and done with a pure intention for the honour of God. Beware of pride, which is the deep pit of all vices, and the ruin of all virtues. Be thou innocent and guileless as a little child, pure from all malice, and thou wilt be beloved of God and of me, and at peace with thyself.

## CHAPTER II.

### OF THE DOCTRINE OF JESUS AND HIS HUMILITY.

1. "Discite a me," inquit JESUS, "quia mitis sum, et humilis corde." (St. Matt. xi. 29.)

"Learn of me," saith JESUS, "because I am meek, and humble of heart." Oh, humility—the virtue of Christ, how dost thou confound the pride of our vanity, who desire to be praised for a little good, and refuse to be blamed for the many evils we have done! O sweet JESU, who hast borne so many evils for us, who hast done none, and who hast conferred on us innumerable blessings which we deserved not, nor are worthy