

the denunciations of perdition in scripture are always connected with personal voluntary agency; and in all the accounts given of the judgement men are represented as judged according to their personal conduct, nor does there appear any evidence of any being condemned except for their actual transgressions. It is true we behold them here suffering many evils for the transgression of the first Adam, but may we not expect that "much more" they shall obtain salvation through the righteousness of the second,

In whom the tribes of Adam boast  
More blessings than their father lost.

When we consider, too, the divine character as delighting in mercy, and more especially, that through the glorious work of the Redeemer, mercy can be exercised in harmony with all his perfections, and that now their salvation depends on his will, have we not much to assure us, that all who have not sinned in their own person will be admitted to his favour. Besides this, the scriptures represent God in His dispensations as exercising special care over children; and in every covenant transaction with the children of men he has included the "little ones" in their benignant provisions. He too who came to declare the Father, is exhibited in the endearing character of the good shepherd, who takes the lambs in his arms and carries them in his bosom, and this character he exemplified on earth by several incidents of the most touching description. One of these deserves particular attention. It is recorded by three of the Evangelists. We quote it from Mark, chap. x. 13—16: "And they brought young children unto him that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked them that brought them. But when Jesus saw it he was much displeased, and said unto them, suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them and blessed them." From these and similar scriptural considerations, we have strong reason to hope regarding those,

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