

S E R M O N .

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."—Matt. xxv. 40.

God is love; and notwithstanding all our rebellions, and all our transgressions, and all our cold, hard indifference—there is not one of us, but is the object of the vast and tender solitudes of His mighty existence; for, as Jesus testifies, and as a thousand, nay, a life filled with instances of love, as it is filled with moments, witnesseth; "the Father Himself loveth you."

And His Gospel is simply a message conveying to us an *assurance* of that love, an assurance that notwithstanding our unworthiness—notwithstanding our unwillingness, He waits to be gracious, and will receive us without harshness and without upbraiding; with the sweetest and most endearing love.

Now the effect of this message of love, when received into the heart, is to produce love; we from thence have known and believed the love that God hath to us; and it immediately gathers us as it were into its embrace, and imparts to us