

## SERMON.

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MATTHEW, xviii. part of v. 10.

“Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones.”

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FROM the occasion on which these words were spoken, it is plain that our LORD, by the term “little ones,” which He thrice makes use of, not only (nor indeed chiefly) had in view those young in age, and, in that respect alone, resembling the little child whom he “set in the midst of his disciples”; but he evidently referred it, in a more extensive application, to all, who, whether from weakness, or ignorance, or imperfect information, had yet advanced no further than to the stature, and understanding of “little children,” in the Christian life. And the caution of the text was intended to warn his disciples, of that, and all future periods, who might imagine themselves of fuller growth in grace, against any appearance of neglect, or assumption of superiority, which might prove an offence, or a hindrance to humbler brethren in their religious progress.

Though however all this was doubtless implied in our Saviour’s admonition, I propose to confine the consideration of the text, on this occasion, to that single application, which belongs to the primary sig-