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Editorial.

"OF SUCH."

In these days, when so much is said and written about the sudden conversion of adults, it is perhaps necessary to assert with strong emphasis, that this is *not* the *only* way in which the church of Christ grows. While we acknowledge that this is the only way in which it can grow in a heathen community—where the gospel is preached for the first time, we must never forget that this is not the way that Christ intended it should grow in Christian communities, where his church has already acquired a firm footing. The leaven, if true, must be first introduced into the meal with effort, and it may be amid noise of work and kneading and mowling, but the after process is silent. Sow a grain of mustard seed in your garden, keep the ground fenced and free of weeds, and the mustard will spread the ground noiselessly and naturally.

There are, perhaps no words ever uttered by Christ earlier and oftener in our thoughts and lips, than his words about the Children: "Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." It is not strange that one of the great truths taught by the founder of our religion in these words is almost entirely overlooked by his people in their reading of his precious words.

There can be no misunderstanding of the invitation given—"Suffer little children to come." Children are welcome to Christ at all stages of their youthful life, in all circumstances, at all times, and without restraint of class or company. In this invitation Christ stands alone among the sages, philosophers, and legislators of the world, if we except Moses. And we are so taken up with the great truth, that babes, infants, children, youths, are welcome to the bosom of Christ, and the best blessings of his house, that we have not pondered as we ought the reason he gives for asking men to keep the road clear for their little feet. "For of such is the kingdom of heaven." What does Christ mean when he says that the kingdom of heaven is "of such?"

The common idea attached to the words "of such," is that Christ meant here to show the disposition of mind that belongs to his disciples. The church of which he is Head is intended to be composed of disciples who are humble, confiding, teachable as little children are. That Christ meant this is no doubt true, for in express words he says the same thing in another place: "Except ye be converted and become as little children ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." But does Christ mean anything more by the words "of such?"

These words, "of such," others say