

## A SERMON, &c.

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*St. Paul's Epis. Rom. 12th ch. 5th verse.*

"We being many are one body in Christ; and every one members one of another."

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(1) THE Apostle having in the preceding Chapters of this Epistle established with irresistible force all the fundamental doctrines of the Gospel, proceeds, according to his usual method, to urge upon the believing Romans, and of course upon all succeeding Christians, a practical improvement of them, as the chief end of his preaching, the necessary consequence of a true faith, and the main scope and design of Christianity itself.—The first improvement of them, and it is well worth observing, that the instruction of the great Apostle is in exact conformity with the language of our divine master in relation to the two great duties of mankind, is to surrender up ourselves unfeignedly and unreservedly to God in the way of devout affection.—The next is, to employ ourselves diligently for him in every office, whereby we can benefit his Church and people.—To the former of these the Apostle calls us in the first verse of this chapter: "I beseech you, therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service"; and to the latter in the words of my text, and in a few verses, one immediately preceding and the others following it: "As

(1) This first paragraph is taken with some slight variation and additions from the Revd. C. Simeon's *Homæ Homileticæ*.