

## DISCOURSE II.

---

MAT. XXV, 45.

Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

It has pleased the directors of the Society in whose behalf, my brethren, your liberality was exercised this morning, to request that such as were not then present, or who were, probably, unprepared for the collection, might have an opportunity to contribute on this occasion. It will not be expected, however, that I should enter again on the specific objects of the Society. Leaving these to your own unbiassed principles and feelings, let me rather apply myself to the higher aim of instruction, on the great principle of good works in general, which is to regulate the final judgment of the last day. The ministers of Christ may indeed, lawfully reiterate their plea, for any object of Christian benevolence or Christian morality: but the peculiar end of their office is of a more comprehensive kind. It is to implant the character of pure and undefiled religion in the soul—to explain to the understanding and press home upon the heart the true influence of that celestial faith, from which, as from a perennial fountain, all charity must flow, if it would claim the elevated rank of Christian virtue. May the Spirit of God be present with us, that we may set before you aright the exalted standard of religious obligation, and that you may seek to attain it with sincerity and truth.