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## REMARKS ON THE PARABLE OF THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN.

*"And He spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:—Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a Publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this Publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the Publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me a sinner.—I tell you, This man went down to his house justified rather than the other."—Luke xviii. 9—14.*

THIS Parable strikingly illustrates some of the most important principles of the kingdom of God. It exhibits the blessedness of that hope towards God, which THE GOD OF HOPE\* reveals and communicates to sinners, even the chief, in the GOSPEL of his SON. It exposes the delusiveness of every other hope—even in its most specious form—which the natural pride and ungodliness of our hearts dispose us continually to cherish. It marks that God is no respecter of persons; that the things which are highly esteemed among men are abomination in His sight; that the ways and thoughts of God are not as our thoughts or ways. (Acts x. 34. Luke xvi. 15. Is. lv. 8, 9.)

But, as usual, the more blessed and important the instruction is, which this passage of Scripture is calculated to convey, the more diligently has the father of lies laboured by his agents,

(many of them religious commentators and divines), to pervert and obscure its meaning.

READER! whatever your character be, whether religious or irreligious, your attention is entreated to the following remarks, while the writer endeavours simply to present the parable to your view in its genuine import. Let all that he advances be tried, not by the systems of men, but by the WORD of GOD.

The parable was uttered by the lips of Him, who spake as never man spake,—by Him, who is the Wisdom of GOD, and the Salvation of GOD; and was addressed unto certain persons who "trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others." It is recorded by the Spirit of Truth, for instruction in righteousness, to the end of the world. But to understand it aright, we may profitably carry ourselves back, in imagination, to the day in which the

\* The notes are placed on pages 121 and 125.