ST. MATTHEW. XVIII.   
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 little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels   
 de Beth. do always "behold the face of my Father which is in   
 Lake {. heaven. [1'\* For the Son of man is come to save that which   
 4 (Luke , Was lost.] 12 \* How think ye? if a man have an hundred   
 1 xix,   
 John 17; sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave   
 Vthe ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and   
   
 ¥ this verse is in several of the authorities.   
 VY render, the ninety and nine on the mountains, and goeth and   
 seeketh.   
   
 (literally fire is eternal), variably, or under what circumstances of   
 here first is more fully in minor detail, are not informed)   
 Mark, vv. 43, 44 ff. 10.] Hitherto our angels are allotted their especial   
 text has been lel with that of Mark dants and guardians. We know elsewhere   
 ix.; from this, Matthew stands from the Scriptures, of the Old and   
 The warning against contempt of little New Testament (Ps. xxxiv. 7; xci. 11:   
 ones must not be taken as only implying Heb. i. 14 al.), the angels do minister   
 that special care must be taken not to about the children of God: and what   
 scandulize them, nor indeed as relating should forbid in this service, a pre-   
 exclusively, even principally, children. scribed order and appointed duty should   
 We must remember with what the dis- regulate their ministrations fay, is   
 course began—a contention who should be not certain by analogy that such would   
 greatest among them: and the little be the case? But this saying of Lord   
 are those who are the furthest these assures us such ie the case, and that   
 d ” the humble and new-born babes those angels whose honour is high before   
 of the spiritual kingdom. And despise God are entrusted with the charge of the   
 must be understood of that kind of con- humble and meek,—the children in age   
 tempt which ambition for superiority and the children grace. The phrase   
 would induce for those who are by weak- I say unto you, as in Luke xv. 7, 10,   
 ness or humility incapacitated such a an introduction to a revelation of some   
 strife. There is no doubt that children previously unknown fact in the spiritual   
 are included in word little as they world. Stier has some very   
 are always classed with the humble and remarks on the guardian angels, and on   
 simple-minded, and their character held the present neglect of the   
 up for our imitation. The little of angelic tutelage, has been donbt-   
 in the outward state of the Church are less a reaction the idolatrous angel-   
 in fact the only disciples are sure to worship of the of Rome (see Acts   
 be that in reality, which their Baptism xii, Daniel xii. in the former case   
 has put upon them, and eo exactly answer we have an individual, in the latter a   
 to the wider meaning here conveyed by national guardianship). behold the   
 the term; and those who would in after- face, &. i.e. are in high honour before   
 lite enter into the kingdom must turn God; not perhaps especially so, the   
 back, and become as.these little — meaning may be, ‘for they have angelic   
 as.they were when they had just received guardians, who always,’ &c. See Tobit   
 the new life in Baptism. e whole dis- xii. 11.] The angels are the   
 course is in and constant reference vante and messengers of the Son of   
 the covenant with infants, which was to and they therefore &o.) are appointed   
 be made and ratified by an ordinance, to wait on these little ones whom He   
 the Kingdom of Heaven, just then. came to save; and who, in their utter   
 On the reason assigned in latter part helplessness, especially of that   
 this verse, have been many opinions whieh was lost. ery? retmprke Stier,   
 some of which (e.g. that ‘ebster ‘is Jacob’s planted before our eyes:   
 and Wilkinson, ‘angels, their after beneath are the little ones;—then their   
 death :’ a meaning which the word never angels ;—then the Son of Man in heaven,   
 bore, and one respecting which our Lord in whom alone man is exalted above the   
 would not have spoken in the present angels, Who, as the Great Angel of the   
 tense, with always) have been broached Covenant, cometh from the Presence and   
 merely to evade plain sense the words, Bosom of the Father;—and above Hint