274 Little or Very Little (*Paruus uel paruulus*)

One is little in years, little in sense, or little in evil. But also, such ones are acceptable to God, Prov. 9[:4]: “Whosoever is a little one, let him come to me.” And Matt. 18[:3]: “Unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

¶ For literally a little one can enter where a large one cannot, particularly where the entry is narrow. Wherefore 1 Kings 15[:17], it was said to Saul: “When you were a little one in your own eyes, were you not made the head of the tribes of Israel?” And God gave to Solomon as a child wisdom, riches, and glory, 3 Kings 3[:7]: “I am but a child, and know not how to go out and come in.” And Matt. 18[:2]: “And Jesus calling unto him a little child, set him in the midst of them.”

¶ Again, Luke 10[:21]: “You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to little ones.” And in the Psal. [18:8]: “Giving wisdom to little ones.”

Again, unless a circle were small, it would not profit to be inserted in another material. So, it was said concerning David, 1 Kings 16[:11]: “There remains yet a young one, who keeps the sheep.”

¶ The figure is in 4 Kings 4[:2], when the woman had nothing except a little oil and poured it in her vase, it filled everything. Wherefore the Philosopher, 7, *De animalibus*,[[1]](#endnote-1) that small animals are more fertile and more generative than in the large ones. So, the small and humble are more fertile than large ones.

1. Aristotle, *The History of Animals* 7.1 582a19-22 (Barnes 1:912): but young men and women produce undersized and imperfect progeny, as is the case also with the common run of animals. Young women conceive readily, but, having conceived, their labor in childbed is apt to be difficult. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)