

All through the ages even till now Jesus calls little children "from Heaven which is their home," and sets them in the midst of the families on earth, that by the example of their simplicity and innocence, those who have grown selfish or hardened in the world's ways may learn to forget themselves in the sweet humility of loving service, giving place to others after the manner of the little child who is content to see others preferred before it because it esteems every one greater than itself.

As year by year the blessed festival of Christmas comes round, and we assemble to keep it, family by family, congregation by congregation, by hearth and home, by church and altar, we are reminded how God the Father took His own dearly loved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and set Him as a little child in the midst of the great family of mankind.

When the faithful shepherds, who kept watch over their flocks by night, came to Bethlehem, the City of David, to look for the Saviour, Christ the King, of whom the angels had told them, they found Him, a little child, lying in a manger. When the wise men from afar came with their royal gifts to look for One Whose star they had seen in the East, Who was born King of the Jews, they found still a little child Whose only throne was His mother's arms.

Every Christmas since that night, now nineteen hundred years ago, God seems to answer the questionings and strivings of poor foolish human nature, "who shall be greatest?" by drawing our thoughts upwards to the Divine Child to learn from Him the lesson of true humility.

"Such as are gentle," they shall learn the ways of the gentle Christ-child who tarries with us still, but so silently and quietly that we cannot see Him except by faith.

Shut the eyes of your body for a little while this Christmas night and try to see with the eyes of your soul, try to see as God sees hidden under the lowly forms of earth the spiritual treasures of Heaven. Realize that in every communion He, the Son of God, the Divine Child, comes to you as truly as He came to Bethlehem's stable once so long ago.

From Him learn to be truly humble, truly simple, believing with lowly reverence what God tells us in His Holy Word, accepting with thankfulness the messages and gifts He sends us through His Church, recognizing with joy the evidences of His will in the circumstances of our lives, praying ever that we may not only bear that will, but learn to love it with singleness of heart. "My meat is to do the will of My Father which is in Heaven," for so spake our Master.

"Sacred Infant all Divine, what a tender love was Thine."
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!
Teach, O teach us Holy Child, by Thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble Thee, in Thy deep Humility."—Amen.