

But all in vain we gather for the feast,
If we, though freely fed, omit to feed

The hungry, or supply the pressing need
Of those who thirst, or far from kindred dwell,
Or are unclad; or cheer, by cot, in cell,
Chrst's pining brothers, even to the least.

O gracious God, Who did'st all-pitying give
Thy peace, beyond man's ken, by angels' song,
To all who for the heavenly gift should long;
Grant us this choicest blessing from above,
Our hearts and minds, in knowledge and in love
Of Thee, to keep; that we in Thee may live.

St. John, N. B.

—I. ALLEN JACK.

Humility.

"Jesus called a little child and set him in the midst of them."—St. Matthew xviii., 2.

To those who companied with our Lord during His life on earth, the thought of the Kingdom of Heaven was a great, though mysterious, reality.

How could it have been otherwise, while He, the Founder and Ruler of that Kingdom dwelt among them, teaching them its laws, telling them of its greatness, and ever striving to lead them on to see the things of earth in their true relation to the glories of Heaven? Yet it was uphill work, for then, as now, the disciples and followers of Christ seemed to find it difficult to understand the "self-less-ness" required of those who would become true subjects of that Kingdom—so far off and yet so near.

We see this in their anxious questioning, "Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?"

Perhaps there had been jealousy and heart burning amongst them because of the three the Lord had chosen to ascend with Him the Mount of Transfiguration—whatever the occasion, our Lord answered by a very significant action. He called a little child—some wee toddling thing, with the freshness and purity of its Maker's work still unmarred by contact with the world—and He "set him in the midst of them."

There had been strife amongst the disciples; there is always strife in the great family of mankind for precedence. Who shall have the best place? Who shall be most honored, most loved, most powerful?

Very gently our Lord rebukes this spirit in His friends. He sets the little child in their midst, and says, "unless you are like little children you cannot even enter the Kingdom of Heaven, much less be great in it.