

CHAPTER I

CHRIST IN THE MANGER

1.

*The Babe in the Manger is the Sign of the
Spiritual Primacy of Childhood.*

THE Old Testament opens with the picture of a child-man in a garden; the New Testament opens with the picture of a man-child in a manger. Around the figure of the child-man Genesis weaves the story of Paradise Lost; about the person of the man-child the Gospels weave the story of Paradise Regained. The portrait of the child-man is dim and indistinct, like some faded old daguerreotype in which the features seem to be obscured by a clinging haze; the portrait of the man-child is as fresh and clear as if but yesterday put upon the plate. It is done in fast colours. Neither mist nor dust are permitted to rest upon this precious triumph of an artless