

## AS A LITTLE CHILD.

Luke xviii. 17.

THE wisest man on earth—the man of keenest intellectual perceptions—the man of highest attainments—must become a little child to have to do with Jesus. We must become fools in order to be wise. It may be that some one, looking at such a passage as this, may be perplexed, and say, How is this? Are we not often told that salvation is by faith? That whoever believes in the Lord Jesus Christ has salvation and eternal life? How then, is it that these blessings are here made to depend upon my becoming a little child? These are but two different ways, my friends, of presenting the same thing. Faith is this child-like spirit that each must have if he is to enter the kingdom of God. It is not that little children are good, and that we have to become good like them in order to get blessings from God. It is not that at all; children are sinners and need a Saviour, and He came to save children as well as grown-up people. What then, is the meaning of the passage? Let me ask in reply, is there one characteristic of childhood so prominent as this, the unhesitating simplicity with which the child trusts those with whom he has to do? Try a child; offer him something that he can value and desire, something suited to him—an apple—a toy. What does he say? Does he begin to make excuses, and say he does not deserve it, that he is not good enough, that he must behave better, feel differently, or the like, before he can expect such a boon? Is this the way