

Like a Little Child.

THE king of a country is the greatest person in the land over which he rules. No one may even sit down in his presence until he tells them to do so.

His servants are proud to serve him, because they feel that some of the honour which is given to the king, falls upon them.

But sometimes the servants of a king think only about themselves, and they try to get into the best and highest places, next to the king himself.

Now, when Jesus was on earth He had a number of disciples who went about with Him. Among them were Peter, and John, and James, and Thomas.

Though Jesus did not sit on an earthly throne and live in a palace, He told His disciples that He was a King, and that His Kingdom was in Heaven.

They could not quite understand this, and they often talked about it among themselves. They thought that, as they served a King, they ought to have high places in His Kingdom.

Like other men who served kings, they each wanted to be first, and to be great men in their Master's Kingdom. As they could not decide among themselves which should be greatest, they asked Jesus about it.

They said to Him,—

“Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?”

Jesus knew why they had put the question, for He knew what was in their minds. Therefore, instead of answering them, He called a little child to Him, and placed the boy in the midst of His disciples.

They wondered what a child could have to do with such a matter, and in silence they waited to hear what the Master would say.

Then Jesus took the child in His arms, for you know that He loved children, and said that only those who were as humble as that little child could enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

He told them that the disciple who was most willing to serve the other disciples, and who made the least of himself on earth, should be greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.