

## "THE SIMPLICITY THAT IS IN CHRIST."

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THE verse from which the heading of this article is selected indicates that St. Paul feared lest the church at Corinth and the saints of Achaia might be corrupted, by some means, from "the simplicity that is in Christ." There is no parallelism between the simplicity here mentioned, and that of the two hundred who followed Absalom out of Jerusalem, or of those to whom *wisdom* crieth, "How long will ye love simplicity." We are rather reminded of, "Let no man deceive himself. If any among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise,"—or more directly of, "Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

It appears rather strange that spiritual life can thus be appropriately expressed. Piety is often set forth as the highest possible glory for man. In comparison with it, how insignificant is the excellence of a herculean body, how the fine gold and the Topaz decrease in value, and how vain are wealth of honour and varied culture. And yet, notwithstanding the acknowledged intrinsic value of religious life, the inspired Apostle terms it, "The simplicity that is in Christ."

*Wherein is this inspired phrase appropriate?* The fitness of the expression can be easily seen by those who have received "not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God," and thereby know the free gift of God. In spiritual life there is a consciousness that the love, comfort and spirit of obedience are of God. How incapable the Christian feels of saving himself. How clearly, in spirit, he casts himself upon Jesus as his only Saviour. And how often he feels that he is upheld by the everlasting arms. In these perceptions and feelings so common among the children of God there is a simplicity. But the words of inspiration have a deeper meaning. The original of which "simplicity," in the translation is from words signifying, "not many" or "to be one"—simplicity, singleness, artlessness, purity. Thus the Word itself in its connection here opens to view the spiritual life so frequently and so strongly spoken of in other parts of the sacred Word. For example, "Blessed are the pure in