

"While shepherds watch'd their flocks by night."

WHILE shepherds watched their flocks
All seated on the ground, [by night,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

2 "Fear not," said he, (for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind,)
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

3 "To you in David's town this day
Is born, of David's line,
The Saviour, who is Christ the Lord ;
And this shall be the sign :

4 "The heavenly babe you there shall find
To human view display'd,
All meanly wrapp'd in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid."

5 Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appear'd a shining throng
Of angels praising God, on high,
And thus address'd their song :

6 "All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace ;
Good will henceforth, from heaven to men,
Begin and never cease."