

The star appeared in 1885.

Not the star in Cassiopeia. Man looked for a star in that constellation and was disappointed. True, some are still looking to Cassiopeia for that star, as our Hebrew friends are still looking for the appearance of Him whose harbinger the star was. But God's ways are not as man's ways. Just as high as are the heavens above the earth—who shall gauge that height?—so are God's thoughts higher than man's.

In the early ages of thought, when

“ The shepherds on the lawn,
Or ere the point of dawn,
Sat simply chatting in a rustic row,”

every person born into the world was believed to be guided by a star, to be under the special protection of one or other of the radiant orbs that illumine the night skies. It was in an age when this belief prevailed almost universally that the Nativity happened. What if the Holy Child should be found to have been heralded, not by a single star, but by several, appearing at given epochs from the Creation to the Nativity and recorded ever since, right down to our day? Why seek to limit the Almighty? Why suppose that a single star must continually herald and afterwards record an event of universal importance? Why not admit that many stars as well as one have sung for joy over this event.

Therefore, I say the star appeared in 1885. Mind it was not the same star as that which appeared at the Nativity, not the same as that which appeared in Cassiopeia, in 1572. It was another star, a totally different creation, it appeared in Andromeda, a totally different constellation. For all this, it may have been part of one harmonious whole, each new star a letter, a distinct and separate portion, let us say, which put together will form the word “Messiah.”

Scattered like radiant points across the great dial of the heavens, the star of Bethlehem, as many distinct stars, has appeared in many constellations, will scarcely have gone over them all before the end of time. The brightest appearance was undoubtedly that at the Nativity, when the prediction of Balaam: “There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel,” (Num. xxiv., 17) was doubly fulfilled. Messiah, the bright and morning star came out of Jacob, and a real star came forth over

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