

OUR CHRISTMAS SONG.



BY MARY LOWE DICKINSON.



NOT only by lips of prophets with the word of the Lord atllame,
Not only by echo from heart to heart of the great Messiah's name,
Not only by vision of sages, bearers of gold and myrrh,
Was lifted the veil of the ages, with the breath of God astir ;
But a star went wandering earthward, guiding the pilgrim feet
Where a loving God and sinful man in perfect childhood meet ;
And there was the shepherd's vision of shining silvery wings,
And the song that should ring and echo until the whole world sings,

“ Peace on earth, good-will to men ; ”
Hear it rise and fall again,
“ Peace on earth, good-will to men.”

There's a glimmer still in the darkness, a shining athwart the gloom ;
There's a whisper of God in human souls, “ Make for the Christ-King room.”
There are hearts that faint for the tokens of His coming from afar,
And feet astray—for the hiding of Bethlehem's guiding star ;
There are souls with gifts to bring Him—treasures of love unpriced ;
They look for God, but see Him not in the tender and sweet Child-Christ,
The guiding star is shrouded in the ages' sorrow and wrong,
And the heavens have lost the chiming of the shining angels' song.

“ Peace on earth, good-will to men ; ”
Shall it not be heard again ?
“ Peace on earth, good-will to men.”

There's a message out of the star-land. The voices that must ring
Are thine, that can echo the angels', and herald our Lord, the King.
With never a rush nor silence should the Christmas melody rise,
Till the heart of the lowest and saddest uplifts to the Bethlehem skies :
Till the sad world makes it ready—freed from its strife and sin,
Each heart a sacred temple—for the Christ-Child's entering in :
Till even the souls in prison are turned to the angels' chord,
And ye set the whole world singing of the coming of the Lord,

“ Peace on earth, good-will to men ; ”
Raise the Christmas song again,
“ Peace on earth, good-will to men.”