

work of his hands, guide and protect the Son of his wife and of God.

That night as they lay in their bed the Virgin Mother told Stella some wonderful incidents concerning the child. She told her how He had left His glorious home in heaven to save His people, that He was God and man, and how His God-head was veiled by His humanity, and that after His death He would rise again, and return to His heavenly home, after redeeming the world.

The prudent woman excluded all the painful experiences in store for Him, these she kept to her own heart. When the grown ups were at breakfast the next morning, the Divine Child slipped shyly into the kitchen, running toward the chimney to get His stockings, which Stella had hung there the previous night.

To his great joy he found them stuffed full to the brim, with all kinds of goodies. Standing on a low stool he reached for them, taking them down, he skipped lightly across the floor and placed them in his mother's lap. Their contents turned out to be, some pretty toys, a thick warm pair of mittens, wristlets, and a small scarf, some fruit and candy; also, tucked tightly in the thumb of one of the mittens was a small round shining piece of gold. The Son of God looked every inch a boy, as in an ecstasy of joy, he fluttered around his small possessions, his murmured thanks, mingling with those of his parents.

It was when the holy trio were about to resume their journey that the supernatural element in the child's nature asserted itself.