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HOME CIRCLE

THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM O eruel manger, how bleak, how

For the limbs of the Babe, my straw:

Meep, O eyes, for thy God

litter ye winds in the frosty night Upon the Babe, my God, Plercing the torn and broken thatch; Kament, O heart, for thy God.

Base is the floor, how bare, how bare For the Babe's aweet Mother, my God:

Only a stable for Mother and Pabe, How cruel thy world, My God!

Cast out, cast out by his brothermen, Uaknown the Babe, my God, The ox and the ass alone are there,

Soften, O heart, for thy God!

Dear little arms and sweet little hands, That stretch for Thy Mother, my God: Soft baby eyes to the Mother's eyes, Melt, O heart, for thy God!

Wamen touches on Mother's heart, Fingers of the Babe, my God, Dear baby lips to her virgin breast The Virgin Mother of God

The Shepherds have come from the hills to adore The Babe in the manger, my God,

Mary and Joseph welcome them there. Worship, O soul, thy God!

But I alone may not come near The Babe in the manger, my God, Weep for thy sins O heart, and plead With Mary, the Mother of God!

May I not come, oh, just to door, We see the Babe, my God? There will I stop, and kneel, and adore,

And weep for my sins, O God! But Mary smiles, and rising up, In her arms the Babe, my God; She somes to the door and bends her

down, With the Babe in her arms, my Hed

Her siniess arms in my sinful arms Places the Babe, my God; "The has come to take thy sins AWAY;"

Break, O heart, for thy God! -Conde B Pallen

THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST-CHILD.

(From The German) and before entering Virgin. He saw her praying on her "Soldiers of the Cross," left the knees before the couch, her back was land. turned towards him, and she was

to the ground. The light which surrounded the Blessed Virgin became more and more brilliant; the light of the lamp pro pared by Joseph could not be seen. When the hour of midnight arrived Mary was transported in an ecstacy I saw her raised a certain height from the ground, she had her hands orossed on her breast. The light kept increasing around her; everything Where the tapers shine, and the accomed to feel a joyful emotion, even wreathen pine things inanimate. The rock which formed the floor and the wall of the light. But soon I saw no more of the roof; a luminous path, whose brightness continually increased, went forth from Mary to the highest Heaven. Then was there a marvelloss movement of the celestial glories, which, approaching nearer and nearer, appeared distinctly under the forms of the angelic choirs The Biessed Virgin, raised from the earth in her ecatacy, prayed and turned her eyes to her God, of Whom she had become the mother, and Who, a feebie, new-born Infant, was lying on the ground before her.

I saw Our Saviour like a little shining Infant, whose brilliance celipsed all the surrounding splendor, lying upon the rug before the knees of the Blessed Virgin, He seemed to me very small, and to grow larger before my eyes; but this was only the radiance of a light so dazzling that I can scarcely say how I could see

"Mbout an hour had elapsed since the birth of the Child, when Mary called St. Joseph, who was still praying with his face to the ground. Approaching, he prostrated himself, full of joy, humility and fervor. It was only when Mary had induced him to press to his heart the Sacred Gift of the Most High, that he rose, recoived the Infant in his arms, and returned thanks to God with tears of

That then placed the Inlant in the with They had rollled it with rust-

es and beautiful plants on which they spread a coverlet It was above the trough, hollowed in the rock to the right of the entrance to the grot-(to, which became larger there in a Soft little limbs on the cold, cold southerly direction Whe they had placed the Infant in the crib they both stood at the side, shedding tears of joy and chanting songs or praise. Joseph then arranged the sleeping couch and seat of the Blessed Virgin by the side of the crib. I saw her, both before and after the birth of Jesus, dressed in a white garment, which completely covered her I saw her during the first days, sitting, kneeling, standing, or even lying on her side, and sleeping, but neither ill

I saw in many places, even in the most distant countries, an unusual loy and an extraordinary movement during this night. I saw the hearts of many good men animated with a joyous desire, and those of the wicked full of anguish and trouble I saw many animals show their joy by their movements, the flowers raise their heads, plants and trees receive as it were new life and spread far and wide their perfumes I saw also springs burst from out of the ground. Thus at the moment that the Saviour was born an abundant spring burst forth in the grotto which is on the hill to the north of the Grotto of the Crib . . . Over Bethlehem. the sky was of a sombre red, while over the Grotto of the Crib, in the valley near the Grotto of Maraha, and over the Valley of the Shepherds there was a shining vapor

THE GUARDIANS OF THE HOLY LAND

The "Cradle Land" of Christianity is Palestine. The Holy Founder lived It canted, swooped, and wabbled, it nearly all llis life on earth in this land, and when He returned to Heaven, He left His holy Mother and the Apostles in this country, which This happened o'er a city-and lo, the has been honored above all other spots on earth The echoes of the With presents scattered broadcast sounds of the hammers on Good Friday had scarce died away, when the blood of martyrs began to flow.

lovingly toward this little corner of God's creation. In the fourth cen- And into patient chimneys of children tury, St. Helena, the mother of Constantine, went to the Holy Land to Fell naught at all, or possibly some visit the places where our dear Lord there some time and built many chapels and oratories as remembrances and reminders of the great events which had taken place, most important events in the history So, naughty, naughty soungst rs of the whole world.

The unbeliever and the pagan, in time, destroyed many of the monuments erected by St. Helena. In the eleventh century, Christians called tried to do just right, "Crusaders" made an effort to so And on Christmas day imagined that When Joseph returned to the grot- cure possession of the holy places. This effort was continued for three he east his eyes upon the Blessed centuries, when the "Crusaders," the

The Franciscan Fathers, the Friarslooking toward the east. She seemed Minor, under the leadership of St to him as if surrounded by flames, Francis himself, went to Jerusalem and all the grotto seemed to shine and established a monastery Soon with a supernatural light. He looked they erected churches, schools and at it as Moses did when he saw the hospitals in other parts of Palestine. Berning Bush, then, seized with a and to-day the brown-robed followers holy fear, he entered into his cell of the "Scraphic Saint" are the

> IF THE CHRIST-CHILD CAME. (By Margaret E. Sangster, in Sunday answered them. School Times.)

If the Christ-child came to avenue home, Where the tree is laden with gifts to-night,

Is scenting the air in the yele log's light, grotte were, as it were, alive with He would say, I am sure, to the children there,

"Go, gather my little lost ones For I came to save from death and

If the Christ-child came to the tenement room Where the stove is cold and the

hearth is bare, He would lighten the dark with his own dear face,

Him there. But yet He would say, in that crowd- cake to the little beggar boy " ed home.

For I've peace for strife, I have love keep," replied the angel and life.

And I bring it for you abundantly Oh, child of the rich man, child of the poor,

The Child of Heaven is coming was the reply #oon! The night grows sweet with the soun of lilis feet,

On the threshold I hear his sandalshoon And earth is brief, and heaven is

And he bids us all to hasten in; For He comes to save from death and the grave, And to heat the hurt of the hateful ly, CHILDREN'S CORNER

7 A CHRISTMAS MISTAKE (Edwin L. Sabin in Christmas St

Nicholas) Though in a tearing hurry - hi

Weekly Iceberg News," And the name of Santos-Dumont that moment caught his eye, The well-known navigator of machincs that soar on high.

'Why bless mol' muttered Santa "A cousin, sure enough, Our family, I notice, is always up to spufft

The name's misspelled. These papersi They seldom get things right?

And he sent off for an air-ship that very selfsame night, A month or so of waiting, and then it came apace

Upon a fast Dog-Special to Twenty North Pole Place; And, just as pleased as ever was any girl or boy,

Now Santa Claus his treasure survey ed with chuckling joy. He scorned his heartsick reindeer who vainly pawed the snow, He scorned his shining "auto" he'd

bought a year ago, And after ardent practice, all loaded like a wain, Behold upon his journey long his brimming aero-plane!

It southward sped, and southward above the frozen world, The rudder acted nicely, the twinpropellers whirled.

The route was unobstructed (no hills you know, to climb), The motion was entrancing, the ether free from grime,

And Santa Claus was overloyed have so fine a trip-When suddenly a cat-fit appeared seize the ship!

veered from side to side! Oh, never Santos-Dumont had such an awful ridet

air was filled, from out the air-ship spilled, And into gaping chimneys of children

who were bad Every heart that loves Christ turns Fell toys and gifts unnumbered they oughtn't to have had! who were good

bits of splintered wood! had lived and died She remained The children bad were boastful, the children good were grieved, And Santa Claus was frantic that folks were so deceived.

with gifts on Christmas day,

you received a slight, l'icase picture how it came to in spite of Christmas laws,

And much against the purpose of poor old Santa Claus; And such a dreadful mix-up will ne'er

take place again, 'FOR SALE (S. Claus the owner). one large new aeroplanet'

THE CROWN OF GEMS

It was in the Kingdom of Heaven and prostrated himself with his face guardians of the holy places in this where the angel children thronged to the ground.

Holy Land —Sunday Companion round a golden stand on which rested round a golden stand on which rested a crown of glittering gems.
"For whom can it be?" they whisp-

the good of others," she said. "And who is that?" they asked. "I have not found one worthy of

ing," was the answer. Then the with tears. child-angel slipped through the gates and drew her little companion on Cande to save from death and the grave

The poor lost souls in a world of siln. It was the dearest rattle in the grave

The poor lost souls in a world of siln. It was the dearest rattle in the world, with jingling bright beliz on gel's wings begged to go also. They flew silently, through the world, with jingling bright beliz on gel's wings begged to go also. They flew silently, through the handle. Nobody could have blamed hovered over a mighty city and the evening, though darkness had come on Santa if he had forgotten such a tiny child-angel marveled at the many and suddenly with a fall of snow. Fine girl, but he did not.

Strango things she saw Happiness white flakes like tiny feathers blew. There were balls and tope, knives

And mother and children would see that little girl is doing a generous look that was pitiful to see. kindly action, look at her giving that

"Go, gather my lost ones here to did not want it, there is no merit "Oh, but look at that little boy elder child.

who offers these beautiful toys to the child who has none. 12 "He has far more beautiful ones

giving her a part."

for himself," said the angel sorrow-"Oh, then, shall we never find child deserving of the crown of

angel an wered, the the light of hope to him. The boy had a rosy, round shining in her face.

and none that the angel of gifts lap, then be hurried on, half ashamed thought worthy of the crown of gems. of his kindly action Then they paused over a house where children were dressing gaily for a the bun. party. Fires burned in the bedrooms, Liz's first impulse was to divide it, and women flitted to and fro from one then seeing that it was not very big. Old Santa Claus one morning was room to another to see how the lit- and knowing how hungry Polly must

> There were many children, for five belonged to one family and three to larger and formed fautastic shapes another, for the cousins from the as they whirled and danced in the country had come to stay with the night air. Polly, feeling better for others in town.

little boy in bed, and his face was fell asleep. turned to the wall, for he was cryball as much as any of them, but

felt lonely and forgotten; his nurse had been called away to sew some sparkling ornaments on to a queen's silently.

Presently the door opened softly and a little girl peeped in dressed as a fairy. she whispered, "are you "Nicky,

asleep?" A stiffed sob was the answer "Oh!" cried the child "Are you crying 'cause you can't

"I'se so miscrable, oh, Sissie, I do wis' 'oo weren't going '' "But the nurse will be with you

Nicky, and if you can't sleep, mother said you might have the new picture books to look at." "But I can't read them, I, want oo to read them to me, Sissie."

"But nurse will, Nicky." hall and think I'll be asleep, but I Claus! shan't, I know I shan't. Oh, I'se so

miserable!" blaze and flickered on the little sis- parcels, and over his back was slung ter's face. Such a sweet little face is a great big pack that looked ready to was! It looked very thoughtful and burst with presents just a little sad, indeed there was a suspicion of tears in the pretty blue briskly down street, and left a package for Miss Marie Leeds. It was tied age for Miss Marie Leeds. It was tied by a ribbon that smart white fairy's frock leaned over up so nicely with blue ribbon that her brother's bed and touched his wet the small owner could hardly make cheek with her soft little hand,

you?" she ask, speaking with a great a troop of boys at the little man's effort, and a tremble in her voice. heel's and some girls too, all crying, "Oh, yes, Sissie, and read to me," exclaimed Nicky, sitting up in his Claus! have you got anything for Don't think that Santa's plans for cager delight, his eyes shining with us?" you were meant to end that way, gladness, then suddenly remembering

smartly for, his face fell. "But don't you want to go?" he There was a moment's hesitation

then Sissic said bravely:
"I'll stop with you, Nicky, and and we'll be so happy."

quickly returned looking like a little stood outdoors to see where Santa i Cinderella in her everyday brown stuff would stop next When his pockets frock They heard the cheerful voices were empty, and his sack hung limp and the little feet descending the over his shoulder, he went into the stairs with soft rustling of silks and strange lady's house. Then all the satins, then the opening of the front little folks who had not had a presdoor, the clatter of carriage steps let ent out of the wonderful pack looked down, the stamping of horses' hoofs ready to cry.

riages over the hard road. stor" she was reading, and the let- time watching him, so don't fret" "It is waiting for the child in the ters danced up and down on the world below who denies herself for page, she stopped a moment and then every one of them In a short time

truer than before. the crown yet, but I am always seek- and the child-angel felt her eyes dim comes!"

and misery, go dness and wickedness, in a confusing mass round and round, and books, ribbons and dolls, pictureseemed strangely intermingled. It laying a soft white carpet over the books and little dishes, and every was only where children dwelt that frozen ground. Two little children sat sort of thing that Santa Claus makes

younger one, nestling closer to her met. "She had caten many herself, she sister, "I am so cold."

The boys play football on the id not want it, there is no merit "There be four more boxes o' strange lady's lawn now, but they

her little sister. She was shivering, and then you can ask him." at home, he doce not need them," with cold herself, and her poor numb feet showed here and there through

> buy a bit o' bread, List" the light. Life bent forward and handed it fits of his food.

face and kind eyes. He noticed the They lingered at the houses of the hungry little faces of the poor childrich, where luxury abounded. Some- ren, and thrusting his hand into the times they found sweet, unselbeh white paper bag he drew out a cur-children, but more often the reverse, rant bun, which he threw into Liz's

"Oh, Liz, exclaimed Potty, scizing

tle ones were getting on, for they be, she turned her head away and let were preparing for a fancy dress ball. the child cat it all

The snow fell faster, the flakes were the food and extra warmth of Liz's in a darkened room apart lay a jacket, leaned closer to her sister and

An hour or more passed and a poing He had looked forward to the heeman on his beat unexpectedly turned his lantern upon the children

(Hilda Richmond in Sunday School Times.)

A strange gentleman and lady movtobe, so he lay there alone crying ed into the big white house on Chestnut street where the Brown boys and girls had lived so long, and all the little lois thought it was too bad Mr. Brown had to go way out west to try to get well, and the Brownies had to go along, even if the neighbor children cried at giving them up The boys and girls walked soberly past the big house, and looked sadis at the holes they had kicked in the lawn playing football, for the strange

lady had no children. It was very fate in the fall wher the Brownies went away, and on Christmas the very strangest thing you ever heard of happened on Cheetnut street. Just when mammas were beginning to say, "Not another bit of candy until after dinner," the "No she won't, she never will, and strange lady's door opened, and out I know she will be in the servants' walked the dearest little Santa

His beard was as white as snow, and so was his hair. The pockets of The fire flared up into s. bright his fur-trimmed coat bulged out with

jup her mind to spoil the pretty bow "Nicky, shall-shall I stay with by opening it. By this time there was "Little Santa Clausi Mr. Santa

They fingered his pack, and got in And you, the lads and lasses who the ball that Sissie was dressed so his way till he said in a big, gruff voice, "il you boys and girls don't go right straight home, you won't

get a single thing out of my sack" This sounded awful, and you never saw such pering to see who could first. There were faces flattened up She darted out of the room and to lots of windows, but so re children

impatient to be off, the jangling of "Never mind," said the mammas bells and the swift rush of the var- "Such a little Santa Claus would break his back carrying presents for ered, and an angel tall and stately Sissie's voice faltered over the so many children. You've had a fine

But the children did het presents, went on with her voice stronger and he came out again, loaded just as he was at first, and the boys and girls The angel's face shone with joy, screamed "Here he comes" Here he

Up and down he went till every crown of gems was hidden from their "She surely is deserving of the child on the street had a parcel out sight and the angel, wrapping her crown of gems," she whispered.

of the big sack. Even the wee new silvery wings around her, passed 'It is the beginning, she will fit baby sister that had come to live with through the golden gates into the herself for it, but she is not yet the Carter boys got a little box shadows of the world below; a little ready," answered the angel of gifts, plainly marked "Baby Carter," and in it was the dearest rattle in the

the angel of gifts paused, and listenod, and watched.

"See," said the child-angel, "surely emaciated appearance and bloodless looked too good to eat, Altogether,
WINNIPEG, MA this was the best Santa Claus the "Can't we go 'ome?" asked the children on Chestnut street had ever

in giving what you do not wish to matches to sell. I duran't go back changed her name to "The nice till I've got rid'or them," replied the lady." They often coax her to tell all about the little Santa Claus, but Then she took off her wretched- she only smiles, and says, "You must looking jacket and wrapped it round wait till he comes back this year,

GOOD DIGESTION SHOULD WAIT "last there is a boy who has an the broken boots she wore. She was ON APPETITE,-To have the stomorange given him, and his baby sister hungry, too, for she had eaten noth- ach well is to have the nervous syscries for it, see, he is dividing it and ing all day, and her chest was ach- tem well. Very delicate are the diing with a dry cough that shook her gestive organs. In some so sensitive ing with a dry cough that shook her gestive organs. In some so sensitive slight frame with painful paroxysms. are they that atmospheric changes affect them. When they become disarrully. able than Parmelee's Vegetable Pills. Just then a school-boy can past They will assist the digestion so that gems?" inquired the little angel sadthem, his arms full of parcels; a pathe hearty eater will suffer no inconly,

per bag fell almost at the shidren's renience and will derive all the bene****** The Largest Cubili Ivir ting of ce in Canada.

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PERSONAL TO SUBSCRIBERS

ball as much as any of them, but turned his lantern upon the children now he had caught a bad cold and was not allowed to go And there lay his little soldier's uniform at the foot of the bed, he had asked to have it brought in that he might look at it, but it was a pitiful pleasure. The red coat with epaulets of gold, the beautiful soft busby, the gleam of the shining sword in its glittering sheath had been too much for the little shining sword in its glittering sheath had been too much for the little fellow, and he had broken down and was sobbling

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