

The Primary Quarterly

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Bye, Baby, Bye !

Bye, baby, day is over,
Bees are drowsing in the clover ;
Bye, baby, bye !
Now the sun to bed is gliding,
All the pretty flowers are hiding :
Bye, baby, bye !
Bye, baby, birds are sleeping ;
One by one the stars are peeping ;
Bye, baby, bye !
In the far off sky they twinkle,
While the cows come tinkle, tinkle :
Bye, baby, bye !
Bye, baby, mother holds thee ;
Loving, tender care enfolds thee ;
Bye, baby, bye !
Angels in thy dreams caress thee ;
Through the darkness guard and bless thee :
Bye, baby, bye !

—Mrs. Mary Mapes Dodge



Training in Thankfulness

By Mrs. C. M. Hincks, B.A.

A Primary teacher was telling her class the Christmas story as given in Luke's Gospel. She had come to the verse which tells us how, after the angels had gone into heaven, the shepherds said one to another : "Let us now go . . . and see this thing which has come to pass ;" but, instead of giving the words of the shepherds, she said to her children :

"Now, what would *you* say if angels came to *you* with such a wonderful message ?"

One little hand went up eagerly.

"Yes, Jackie," she asked, "what would *you* say ?"

"I'd say, 'Thank you,'" said Jackie.

It was not the expected answer, but oh ! how the teacher treasured that reply which

indicated in the little child a real appreciation of God's goodness.

A little child is not born with a deep sense of gratitude, as he is born with the power to imitate and imagine ; it is a quality which needs cultivation and its cultivation will take time. We carry the baby until he can walk. We do much for him without looking for any expression of thankfulness, until he is old enough to understand, to a slight extent at least, the efforts we make for his comfort and happiness. He must first be made to realize the source of his happiness and benefits if he is to be thankful for them. He loves the nodding flowers and the golden sunshine, the blue sky and the twinkling stars ; he enjoys the warmth of his woolen clothes in winter and the coolness of his cotton suits in summer ; he relishes his food with a keen delight and refreshes himself eagerly with drinks of water and milk. Here is one great opportunity for training. He may grow up a selfish little fellow with never a thought as to who provided all these things, but, on the other hand, he may be filled with wonder and love for the Creator who gave them, and out of that wonder and love will spring gratitude to a heavenly Father who cares so much for him, and to an earthly father and mother and all others who are God's helpers in making him comfortable and happy. At every meal he can learn to bow his little head and say :

"God is great, and God is good,
And we thank him for our food."

At bed time he can express his thanks by telling God how glad he is that he cares for him :

"I've had a very happy day
And now, I bow my head to pray,