

A Christmas Song.

BY TUDOR JENKS.

WHEN mother-love makes all things bright,
When joy comes with the morning light,
When children gather round their tree,
Thou Christmas babe,
We sing of Thee !

When manhood's brows are bent in thought
To learn what men of old have taught,
When eager hands seek wisdom's key,
Wise Temple Child,
We learn of Thee !

When doubts assail and perils fright,
When, groping blindly in the night,
We strive to read life's mystery,
Man of the Mount,
We turn to Thee !

When shadows of the valley fall,
When sin and death the soul appall,
One light we through the darkness see—
Christ on the Cross,
We cry to Thee !

And when the world shall pass away,
And dawns at length the perfect day,
In glory shall our souls, made free,
Thou God enthroned,
Then worship Thee !

—The Outlook.

Significance of the Advent.

THE birth of Christ has given such glory to God as I know not that He could ever have had here by any other means. We must always speak in accents soft and low when we talk of God's glory; in itself it must always be infinite and not to be conceived by us, and yet may we not venture to say that all the works of God's hands do not glorify Him so much as the gift of His dear Son, that all creation and all providence do not so well display the heart of Deity as when He gives His only Begotten and sends Him into the world that men may live through Him? What wisdom is manifested in the plan of redemption of which the Incarnate God is the centre! What love is there revealed! What power is that which brought the Divine One down from glory to the manger; only Omnipotence could have worked so great a marvel! What faithfulness to ancient promises! What truthfulness in keeping covenant! What grace and yet what justice! For it was in the person of that newborn Child that the law must be fulfilled, and

in His precious body must vengeance find recompense for injuries done to divine righteousness. All the attributes of God were in that little Child most marvelously displayed and veiled. Conceive the whole sun focussed to a single point and yet so softly revealed as to be endurable by the tenderest eye, even thus the glorious God is brought down for man to see Him born of a woman. Think of it. The express image of God in mortal flesh. The heir of all things cradled in a manger! Marvelous is this! Glory to God in the highest! He has never revealed Himself before as He now manifests Himself in Jesus.—*Spurgeon.*

The Children for Christ.

O LET us not hinder, but help our children to come to Jesus! For child-religion may be hindered. The words of Jesus suggest the thought. The child is weaker than the older disciple, is under his influence, can be kept back by him. God has given the making of the children into the hands of their elders. And the natural religiousness of the child, his simple faith, and sense of love and duty to Jesus may be terribly checked by the example and conduct of those around him; and so Jesus says, "Forbid them not." The word means, as it is elsewhere translated, "hinder them not." The religion of the child is feeble, and can so easily be hindered. Christian parents are appointed as guardians, to watch and foster its growth. All growth comes from within, and depends upon a healthy life. But young and feeble growth needs to be preserved from danger without, and to have provided for it the sustenance that it demands.

Often parents have been bitterly disappointed in their children. When young they could feel so deeply and speak so beautifully! But they had not lived long before all was lost. It was probably because parents trusted to what was a blessed but still only a feeble beginning. They did not watch over the evil influences which the young plant could not yet resist. They allowed the spirit of the world in their own religious life or that of their friends; they allowed company or pleasure and the enjoyment of the world to choke the good seed; or they failed to supply the needful nourishment. There was not, as the child grew up, any more the personal speaking of this blessed Jesus, the helping of faith and obedience by the fellowship and example of a warm, living Christianity—a living love to Jesus. The child's religion disappeared because the parents hindered it in coming to Jesus.

How different the result is when this coming to Jesus is in the right spirit, fostered and encouraged, not only in the little ones, but in

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