

The Day of Joy and Gladness

A CHRISTMAS SLUMBER NIGHT.

Words by Rose Henderson.

Music by Elizabeth Rheem Stoner.

Humming

1. Sleep, baby, the top has stopped spinning And
2. Sleep, ba-by, the snow-flakes are falling Out

PIANO

rolled o-ver there by the wall. We've looked at the pic-tures and
there where the sun-shine has gone; And now the old ma-ple and

made up the sto-ries and played at house keep with the doll. We've
all of his brothers are put-ting their night dress-es on. The

won-dered and guessed what old San-ta might bring us, And
sil-ver star-can-dles are burn-ing in Heav-en, And

hung up our socks in the fire light dim; Sleep, ba-by, the
light-ing the earth with their ten-der glow Which one shone out

fire is call-ing, May be you'll dream a-bout him.
o-ver the cra-dle In Beth-le-hem long a-go.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC.

By W. A. McIntyre L. L. D.

MUSIC in all ages and with all people appeals to the feelings. It heightens joy and it relieves sorrow. It arouses courage and awakes ambition. It evokes tender sympathy, and opens the flood-gates of passion. It makes the weak man strong, and the strong man docile and kindly. It is the great transformer. Its influence is felt in home and in society under all conditions.

At first men passively yield to its magic spell, then they actively assist in its production. Finally, perhaps, they become creators of melody, and the world is cheered and comforted by their message.

At Christmas-time we are in the mood to receive blessings and to confess them. We are prepared to join with others in deeds of love and mercy, and we are ready to express our feelings in song and to call to our aid the "harp and dulcimer and the instrument of ten strings." In a word we give ourselves over to music because we are in tune with the spirit of the season.

Christmas music takes the form of carols, cantatas, oratorios, and some of the finest hymns, songs and choruses have been inspired by the thought of the Babe in the manger. Instrumental music has felt the inspiration of Christmas and noted compositions for violin, for organ and for orchestra have the Christmas story as their motif. Possibly we should never have that popular and ever-attractive diversion—the children's orchestra—had there been no holly and mistletoe and children circling around the Christmas tree.

It is only fair to ourselves and our children that we become possessed of the Christmas spirit, and that we refresh ourselves by listening to and joining in the music which has ever delighted those who have caught the strains of the angels' song. There are people who have never heard the Christmas message. There are some in our own midst to whom it has become a forgotten tale.

Scrooge still lives and Marley's ghost still walks abroad, but we have with us yet John Perrybingle and Caleb Plummer and the charming Dot, and the music of the cricket on the hearth and the kettle on the hob drowns out the creaking of the padlocks and the clanking of the chains. And so Christmas is to us who believe in it the sweetest of all seasons, and its music yields the sweetest of all delights.

Let the bells ring out—peace and love. Let the carols sound forth the First Noel! God rest ye, merry gentlemen.

Let the children take up the strain and sing of the time when shepherds watched their flocks by night; and of that wonderful scene when "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head." Let the older people join in, "O little town of Bethlehem," or in that loveliest song of all, "Adeste Fideles!" Yes, and let us get out the viols and trumpets and flutes and make merry in the children's orchestra, and if we are able let us to the streets and keep alive the old English custom of singing on the day of the birth of the Saviour of Men. And if circumstances permit we shall hear the story of "The Messiah," and perhaps join in those choruses which the passing centuries make more and more satisfying to the souls of men—"All we like sheep!" "Hallelujah!"

If we forget the Child of Bethlehem we forget all. All giving and receiving, all peace and good-will is but an echo of His goodness and mercy. So at this time we shall renew in faith by remembering his coming to earth and shall pour out our thanksgiving in songs of praise. Truly Christmas is the time of song.