DECEMBER 20, 1902.

CENTURIES AGO.

BY FATHER RYAN.

Twas nizbt, a calm and silent night, Seven hundred years and filen night, Mark Rome been growing up to might had now was queen of land and sca, Her banners waved in trianph high in every land, neath every sky. Her iron sceptre awayed alone The word from Caesar's lofty throne; And Caesar ruled with tyrant rod Revered and worshipped as a god Centuries ago.

Twas night, a calm and silent night. The clash of arms was heard to more Mid peace held undisput-d sway. From Parthian plains to Ther's shore. The eagles fleree of ruthless flore Were resting in their haughty home, And gioating of the bleedth her sway; While watched she with an eye of pride And way look, her cocquests wide Centuries ago.

Centuries aco. Twas night, a calm and silent night, The conquered world in bondage lay Bonesth the rod of Roman might. The slave of power, subbilout's prey. And tributes rich and tributes rare in cesseles stroams were flowing there : And royal vassals came to pay Their homsge low to Creasi's sway. He sat upon his lofty threes. Without a rival, high, alone : And Roms kneit down and kissed the hand. That rul of the seas and ruled the hand. And nations, with one loud acclaim. Centuries ago. Un and sight numorcal name. Centuries ago.

Twas night, a caim and silent night. The princely halls of Rome were gay. With fairs of gold and screaning light. With fairs estive sound and gr: ad display. And all was revelry and mirth For Romans high, of honcred birth. Were feasting, reckless of the tolls Of those who won their plundered spoils And there were slaves from every land. From Asia's soll, from Afric's and Who, torn from country, hearth and home, Stood there to serve the lords of Rome. Centuries ago.

Centuries sgo. Twas night, a calm and silent nigh", Triumphant Rome, in outline grand, Stod towering on her dizzy height, As if she were for de't o stand. Emblozoned on her walls there shone Her boasted name, the inwordal one, Twas written on her temple high. Whose domes rose prou by to the sky And every arch that spanned the way. And every monument thai fame-Had raised to grace a hero's name. Beemed destinad by great Rome to be-Her yieldge of immortality. Centuries ago.

Twas night, that self-same silent night, far, far away from Caparia heat night, Twas night, that self-asme silent night, Far, far away from Casar's home, Was born the rival of his might, The future king of lefty Rome. His palace was a table cold, His throne was not of genus and gold. Within a crib of straw He les, Who rules the earth and leves the skics, He had no crow, to show H s claim, To noble bitth, to royal name: But there He lay, to slunknewn. An infant babe-the Promised One-The Prince of Peace-God's only Son Centuries ago.

Centuries ago. "Tis night, a caim and silent night. And where is Caesar i where his crown i And where is Caesar i where his crown i And where are now i and the sile i And where are now her marble halls, Her arches oroud, her temple walls i Where are her slaves, her conquests wide i Where are her slaves, her conquests wide i Where are her monuments of bride ! "Immortal" was her bussted name, Unitvalled her lofty fame. Where now is that "Immortal " Rome. The Queen of Earth great Caesar's home i The Rome of Caesar stands no more Her star has sot. Her power was o'er Centuries ago.

Tis night, a calm and silent night. And Caesar's Rival reigns alone. With greater clory, wider might. Then decked his own prode pay an throne. He has a crown and scep're now; Before Him na ions humbly bow. He reigns. His name is Prince of Pace, His sway of tove shall never cease. Till all the nations, as a gem, Form one, peerless diadem, For one, the Babe of Bethlehem, Upon His throne of love:

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----THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM

THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

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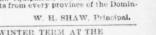
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