

Literary Department.

Songs of Eternity.

CHRISTMAS MUSINGS.



WHEN a "door was opened in Heaven." Through it streamed upon the ear of mortals imperial epoch hymns, transcendent age choruses, rolling up from old eternities or floating from a timeless future yet to be. Like the endless undulations of serenely swelling seas, the harmonies of the first of these chants celebrates the holiness and the eternity of God. It is the choric-song of the universe. "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and who is to come."

God in his holiness and self-existence, with or without sentient beings of his own creation is the first and the last. This earliest hymn is the voice of the unmeasured ages, ere creation was. Its undertone fills the universe with music forever. It is the basal chord sounding on through all other high-wrought deepening jubilations from everlasting to everlasting.

A *second* chorus bursts into voice when God's "wish flowed visibly forth" in creation. The great sea of his holiness and his eternity broke upon the shores of time and space, and universal life was flung up in iridescent form. Spangled suns and shining systems are but the fringes of the garment of his holiness and his eternity.

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive honor and power, for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure thou hast created them."

This hymn celebrates a new epoch, all things have been called into mysterious existence, and a mighty song of endless adoration praises God as Creator.

Still the heavenly door is open ; a *third* beautiful prean lifts the soul with joy.

"Thou was slain and hast *redeemed* us."

This is the song of redemption. Its theme is the Lamb, that was slain, and the number of voices that join in the choral strain is