

to be nothing more than a poor little feeble infant, born in a stable and laid to sleep in a manger—read, Charles, the first seven verses of the second chapter of St. Luke.

*Charles.*—“And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

“And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was Governor of Syria.

“And all went to be taxed, every one to his own city.

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, (because he was of the house and lineage of David)

“To be taxed, with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

“And so it was that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

“And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapt him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the Inn.”

*Mrs. Arnold.*—Except to those who were taught by the power of God to know their Saviour, he must at that time have seemed only different from other children that he was to all appearance more forlorn and poor than they; but the wise men were rejoiced when they saw the star, and they followed it until it led them to the place where Jesus was, and when they came to him they knelt down and worshipped him, and offered presents of great value, “gold, frankincense, and myrrh”, to shew the respect and honour in which they held him. They acknowledged him as their Prince and Ruler, and welcomed him as the promised Sovereign of the whole