

were strong to burst asunder the gates of brass of our prison-house. Those Lips now able only to utter the soft inarticulate cries of infancy were yet to speak as "never man spake." Those Feet bound in swaddling clothes by a mother's tender care had many leagues of weary road to travel to carry the Message of Salvation to His brethren.

The Second Adam came to find His inheritance all given over to thorns and thistles, came to subject Himself to the curse of the first Adam, and in the sweat of His Divine Brow to eat bread. But in *one* thing were the charges different, for to the first Adam, who was deceived by Satan and fell, God said "Cursed is the ground for thy sake." Of the Second Adam God promised "In thy Seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." From that time on, for so many long, long years, what an incense of earnest prayer doubtless went up from the face of the whole earth. Again and again, from countless yearning souls, the cry of the Advent Hymn arose,

Oh come, Oh come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel.

And now, in fulness of time, God sent His Son to remove the curse, not only from man, but from the whole face of nature. He hallowed infancy, labour, sickness, sorrow and death, even as He hallowed nature in all ways, for was He not "a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." He bore the helplessness of childhood, He laboured with His Hands, He touched the sick with healing power, and looked on their diseases with tender compassion, He mourned by the grave of a friend, He sorrowed over the sins of mankind, His Eyes turned with pity on a faithless disciple.

By death He conquered death. Is there any part of human life which He did not touch and sanctify for ever!

Of the ground it was said, "thorns and thistles shall it bring forth," but He removed the curse, for of those same thorns He took and wove for Himself a crown. Of the wood of the tree He made His Altar whereon to offer a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. The reed was His sceptre. "The brute creation He hallowed when He entered Jerusalem 'sitting upon an ass and a colt the foal of an ass.' When the fish came up out of the sea with the silver coin in his mouth, the creatures of the waters owned Him Lord."

All things became new with that wondrous Birth, therefore does all Christendom rightly count time from that night "when Jesus was born."

"Oh, strange indifference! low and high
Drowsed over common joys and cares!
The earth was still, but knew not why:
The world was listening, unawares.
How calm a moment may precede,
One that may thrill the world for ever!
To that still moment none would heed
Man's doom was linked, no more to sever,
In the solemn midnight centuries ago.

It is the calm and solemn night!
A thousand bells ring out and throw
Their joyous peals abroad, and smite
The darkness, charmed and holy now.
The night that erst no name had worn,
To it a happy name is given;
For in that stable lay new-born
The peaceful Prince of Earth and Heaven
In the solemn midnight centuries ago."

Music.

THE *Montreal Gazette* of October 31st. announces that the examinations in Canada next spring, will probably be conducted by the noted Organist of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Sir George C. Martin, Musical Director.