

there find a fount to purify them from the iniquities of the past; and to fortify them against the battles of the future. And when storms arise, when the billows of passion seems to encircle us and the ocean of life is like a dark angry sea, there is still one star of magnificent beauty peering through the dark clouds, that will guide us to the haven of rest.

When marshalled on the nightly plain,
The glittering host bestud the sky;
One star alone, of all the train,
Can fix the sinner's wandering eye.
Hark! hark! to God the chorus breaks,
From every host, from every gem;
But one alone, the Saviour speaks,
It is the star of Bethlehem.

Spiritual welfare of Children.

Holy Scripture contains nothing more tenderly beautiful than the words spoken by Our Blessed Lord in reference to the little ones of the fold. "Suffer little children to come unto Me"—and, "Unless you become as little children you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." On the other hand nothing is more terrifying than His warning to those who scandalize these same little ones. Our Saviour's words should make parents fearful of the responsibility resting on them. "How often even the home becomes a source of danger and invites the curse of God on those 'who scandalize these little ones!'" Sometimes, too, negligent parents disregard the orders of Holy Church and keep their children from the reception of Holy Communion. They do nothing to encourage frequent Communion, which is so necessary a protection against the poison of sin and undoubtedly the best means of keeping the spirit of Christ alive in their hearts.

Not merely at home should this care be exercised. It is the Church's conviction that the whole life of the child be spent in a religious atmosphere that makes her demand so many sacrifices to provide a Catholic education for every child. Let us pray that all upon whom the responsibility falls may do their full duty in guarding the souls of children.