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riginal Confributions

Studies for the Sunday School.

NUMBER VI.

MAT. 2:1-12.

he birth of Jesus and the wonderful circum

nees which immediately preceded and suc-ded that event, took place while Herod the est was King of Judea. The holy family af-the purification of the Virgin, and the pre-

ation of the child in the temple of Jerusalem returned to Bethlehem. Some months after

mstance transpired, which though in its

is somewhat mournful, yet in itself was a

honor to the holy child an additional evi-

of his exaited rank and supernatural ori-

Parthia or Persia countries to the East of

a, there was a class of men of great learn

and influence. Though unacquainted with ovah as revealed to Moses, their ideas of him

nered from the studious contemplation of works, especially the heavenly bodies were

aratively correct. They also had learned in

see way that a great monarch was about to ear, who though of Jewish birth was yet to reise dominion and confer blessings upon nations. They were in constant expectation

is appearance, and prepared to welcome him neshould come. While in this state of

they noticed a strange phenomenon. A

or, or comet, or conjunction of planets, or w star, we cannot now tell which, appoared he heavens. These Magians, or wise men,

me neavens. These Magnan, of who men, neediately connected this circumstance with monarch which they were expecting, and cluded that he had been born. They resolto visit him, to pay him homage. As the

only body moved towards the West they fol-

d until they came to Jerusalem, when the

eased to guide them. They concluded

this city was the birthplice of him whom

sought, and evidently supposed that the

them to him, Accordingly they inquired, here is the newlylborn king of the Jews, for ave seen in the East a star which indicated

rth, and we have come to render to him

se inquiries were made so repeatedly, and

ded so strangely, that at length they came

ears of Herod. Though now in years,

lous tyrant was disturbed by this intima-

hat the future King of the Jews had been

He thought only of formidable rival is throne, and immediately sought to guard the threatened danger. Meanwhile the

ommotion, those who had been hoping for advent of the long promised Messiah were biless filled with joyful astonishment— le the friends and minions of Herod shared

s fear and anxiety.
rod soon planned a scheme which he thought

place his imaginary rival in his power.

s birth he could soon place his hands upon

rdingly he assembled the high priest, the

quired of them where the Messiah should

rn. They informed him that Bethlehem of the was the place. This they had learned from

a was the place. This they had learned from criptures. A prophet had pointed out the place of the Messiah in the following unmissible language: (Mic. 5:1.) "And thou Bethm, district of Jadea, by no means the least, hou among the crites inhabited by the heads to tribes of Judea, for out of thee will forth a leader, who will feed my people

ol, having thus discovered the birthplace

him. He sent for the illustrious

gers whose presence and inquiries caused such excitement in Jerusalem,

as he did not wish the people to know of his

y or his diabolical plans, the interview was y private. Herod had heard of the ap-

ance of the star, and rightly judged that it appeared on the birth-night of the new King. If he could find out when the star

appeared he would then know the age of the it, and then could readily discover him, con-antly his inquiries of the Magians were direct-

this point, and they doubtless gave him

desired information.

In that every doubt about the identity of the

might be removed, the tyrant determined the these good and honorable men the in-

ments of placing the child in his hands.

y now knew not where to go in search of since they were no longer under the direc-

the star. Herod with apparent gracious-aformed them of the place of the nativity

their departure, requested them to search

he " that I also may wisit him and pay him

of the star

the Messiah, now wished to discover the time his birth, so that he might without difficulty

t high priests, the heads of the twenty four

OL 1.

IES

DA

BY PURENESS, BY KNOWLEDGE-BY LOVE UNFEIGNED."-ST. PAUL.

REV. E. B. DEMILL, A. M., Editor

## SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK,

they had left Jerusalem the star which had guiit revealed truths adapted to enlighten the mind,
ded them so far again appeared. It conducted
to soothe the conscience, to touch the heart, and
them to Bethlehem, and then stood directly over
the house in which he whom they sought abode.
At this indication that their long and toilsome
two dispensations. The law was not loved. By At this iedication that their long and toilsome two dispensations. The law was not loved. By search was successful they rejuiced exceedingly.

They entered the sacred abode and saw the law giver. It softened no hearts, soothed no. child with Mary his mother. When they saw remorseful consciences, inspired no delight in the child thay paid him homage as their King. Colliness, afforded little aid to the performance of they also opened their treasure caskets and offered to him valuable presents, gold, frakincense created sorrow and fear, or excited a longing for

so long sought, they had paid to him deserved creates genuine repentance, presents a practicable homsge and had presented to him of their sub.

attince, and were about to return to Herod to direct him to the child. But they learned that ability to conform in heart and life to the revealed this was not in accordance with the will of God. will; one system produced a fearful looking for In a dream he instructed them not to return, of judgment, and a slavie's submission; the other Consequently they did not visit Jerusalem, but created peace and joy in the soul, and the ability returned to their own land by another route. A. B. C.

> For the Christian Watchman. " THE WORD." No. VI

It came to the sinner, proclaimed his duty, offered It came to the sinner, prachimed his duty, offered reward for obedience, and threatened penalty for It has modified the course of the world's history, disobedience, but this despensation communicated no positive blessings. It effected no change in the relation which existed between the sinner and a holy God it wrought no change in the deprayed dispositions of the sinful, it averted none of the fluence, and while it sum none from those wh penalties with which transgressors were threatenel, it offered no aid to the helpless sinner as he e mtemplated a system of duty which his depra-character as in the primitive ages of the church, vity rendered impracticable. Those who had once transgressed found in the law no promis of forgiveness, no moral power in the conflict with sin, no encouragement to reform. On the other hand the dispensation through Ch ist was one of grace. Through him divine and infinite love was have imported a knowledge of sin, or a desire for exercised towards the sinful. This dispensation pardon. Probably also no higher dispensation placed the guilty in a new relation towards God, could have been revealed through man. Moreexerted a powerful influence for good over the over it was perfect so rar as its sphere of influence hearts of the depraced, afford d power to sid in extended, and accomplished the end for which

who had been dead in trespasses and sins. The 'Word' was the char nel through which had been his greatest enemics—causing love.joy, hope, a quenchless thirst after conformity with the Divine will, and creating a new principle in the soul which ensured for it a happy immortali

Again, the dispensation through Moses being of law, was simply a system of divine commands.

There were prohibitions and injunctions, relating to man and to God. There were various washings, sacrifices, and oblations, new moons, and sabe T baths. This dispensation thus addressed i self almost exclusively to the conscience; revelations See in place of one departed all the people reign which might enlighten the mind or touch the ing Kings. heart were made only incidentally, and to give sanction to the moral and ceremonial require-ments. What revelations were thus made were at best merely verbal, and so liable to be misunderstood. The numerous rices and ceremonies though in reality significant, were to the majority of the people mere performances, while to the wisest and the holiest, additional light was required to indicate the full meaning of these ol servances. Consequently the law actually im-parted but little knowledge of Divine and eterna things. Only a portion of the divine character was unfolded, and but a dim and misty light east upon the spirit world. But the dispensation through Christ was not only one "of grace," but through Christ was not only one "of grace," but also "of truth." Precepts were indeed given and the immutible l.ws of Jebovah revealed under the first dispensation, were explained and enforced, but the sim of this latter dispensation was to communicate all truth. It explained the was to communicate all truth. It explained the divine nature, character and purposes, discovered to man his own depravity, revealed the mysteries of the eternal world, pointed out the practicability of holiness, presented motives of sufficient. power to impel to obedience of divine commands, and directed the sinner to a way of salvation.—

All the branchists are the same outspread of the sinner to a way of salvation.— All the knowledge of heavenly or divine things which the human mind could comprehend, or which the human mind could comprehend, or which would benefit man was fully revealed:

These revolations were given in the most intelligible and impressive mode, not in mystic signs nor even exclusively in words which so often it ad astray, but in the life and the death, the resulting agencies interession and record to the wars, surrection, ascension, intercession and second coming, of him through whom this dispensation orable scars. was made.
These dispensations as they differed in character

ever information they might acquire. When | fmportant precepts for the government of the life, and myrrh, gifts such as were usually made to perdon, or peace, and the ability to live obediently. The gospel on the other hand irresistibly seizes.

They now had seen the king whom they had on the attention, excites thought and reflection to obey God from the heart. The Israelites wer under this law, and for many ages had been in a niraculous manner repelled from idolatry impelled to the service of Jehovah. Yet the law combined with numerous and stupendous inter-positions of God failed to make Israel a holy CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TWO DESPENSATIONS. in later ages they seemed to have overcome this The world has been favored with two dispensations of religion, the first through a mere man, the second through the lucarnate Word. Both of these dispensations were requisite for the salvation of ruined man, the former was necessary to the latter, yet the two are essentially different in their characteristics. their characteristics.

The dispensation through Moses was of law.

The dispensation through Moses was of law. were once enemies to God, as sincere and implicit sent progress gives to its friends the promise of a complete victory over error and sin. The dispensation of law was undoubtedly ne

cessary. Probably no other dispensation could the strife with the world, the flesh and the devil, it was given, a preparation for a dispensation of nay, infused a new and everlasting life into those grace and truth. This latter dispensation is perfect in every respect, is the power of God unto race, to sanctify the vilest sinner, and to continue its operations until the end of time. Such a dis-pensation could only have been made through one who was divine. ALEPH.

## For the Christian Watchman RECOLLECTIONS OF ROME.

NO. IX ASSOCIATIONS-THE REPUBLICAN PERIOD. the throne of banished monarchs, Freed all her children brings

See! adown the gloom of centuries, glows th light of Freedom's home,
And the glory of her presence fills the cowealth of Rome.

Hope of patriot souls-the earnest, and the val-

iant, and the free, Proudly lift aloft thy standard and exult aleud

Their own hands have reared the fabric, simple As the mighty hearts that formed thee, is the

Strong in young immortal virtue with a gran expansive force
Spreading out o'er other nations in an unresisted

Through the long, long march of centuries, the

Born Italian, nourished Roman, thence outspre

Lo, around the uplifted standard throng th

Many a stern plebian soldier, many a knight of These dispensations as they differed in character to also they differed in aim. The law exerted its energies to effect an external righteousness. It enjoined holiness of heart, yellits commands and observances related chicfly to externals. But the ses Them shall no empurpled tyrant force to bence the servances related chicfly to externals.

Them shall no empurpled tyrant force to bend

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1861.

ed on high, kings and leagured armies lost in wild sion fly. tic's sneerigh the ranks advancing comes the While the lords of ancient glory pass along in venger on the scene, th a proud melancholy, moving/with mavision here.

Oh most Roman of all Romans, with an unavert- As I stand within the presence of the mighty ed eye,

Chou canet calmly punish treason though thine Whether fancy formed, or whether living

own loved sons must die. Less a father, all a patriot, born to set thy people Still for us ye live undying with the noblest

Then Horatius single-handed keeps an army from Still

is crashing down. Then the stern Etrurian monarch Scavola views with haughty gaze,

in the ardent blaze. Leading on his Volscian legions to the panicstricken State, foriolanus comes from exile thundering at the Unto him in wondrous meaning all your ancient

garded stand around,

the ground. By the frenzied father's hand the unpolluted From the fair Phonician mother to the daughter virgin dies,

And along the raging Forum homeward the wan Here the race of Tyran Rovers placed in this tyrant flies.

Roll the fierce waves of invasion from their sav-

despair,

That the awed barbarian warriors think the gods

O'er the billows bound her navies, borne along themselves are there.

All in vain the slaughtered Senate, and in voin the wrath of Gaul,

the Capitol. Come the sons of mighty conquerors who o'er

Closing in the shock of battle, lo, the baffled Leaving the lost field of conflict overstrewn with

foreign spoils. Then the standards fall deserted, sword and

dread array. Roman life. While Patrician and Plebeish wage their never- Never came such hosts to battle, never fight so

ending strife. Then the high-born strive to govern, and the

low-born strive to rise, Carry on the world long struggle, raise the world Oh, I see the arms of combat reaching to the old party cries. udly the Equesterian order for its privi-

leges fights. And the Tribunes of the people clamor for the There the oath-bound son of Barca guides hi people's rights.

Calls the State upon the bravest when the foe i hovering nigh, Crying 'Rise and be Dictator,' crying 'Save us

Far on high the cries of Party and the shouts of And the roar of warring thousands echoes thro' Over Trebia's turbid torrent, over Thrasymene's the vaulted skies.

Unto them no bygone ages show a new and living way,

Leading up from sore oppression unto Freedom's

Till the wreck of Roman armies crowd within

brighter day. through civil broils and bloodshed and through faction's flames they went, Searching out the sure foundation for a right-

eous government.
Thus in violence and fury, people's passion, rul-(rs' rage, I behold the fight of Freedom carried on from

behold the visible tokens of a free and living

In the war of party, in the tumult of the popu-

For amid the wild disorder here a grander watch word rings, Than from out the treacherous order round the

thrones of foreign kings. Better far the hopes of manhood where the storms of Freedom rave, Than within the still stagnation round the s'eek and pampered Slave.

Oh renowned in song and story, founders of the

cible in battle, where your trumpets Your great lives ye gave your country, and you souls to de

Not for me the cold denial, not for me the scep-

Not for me the lowly spiritual reverence to with-

of mortal birth,

names of Earth. Thy grand patriotic passion pales all other loves Still along the path of ages are your deepening shadows cast,

your voice comes ringing downward thro the long sisles of the Pastthe town,
While behind him roars the river, and the bridge E'en if in the minstrel's fancy only ye obtained

a home, Hail ye glorious creations—offspring of the mind of Rome. with haughty gaze, His right hand outstretched before him withering Thoughts of you were ever mingled with the

Roman soldier's life,
And he saw your forms before him animating to the strife.

Eastern gate.

mottoes came,

But the pallid people trembling in the citadel As he gave his life to Freedom, as he gave his soul to Fame.

above, soul to Fame. force of filial love.

burning shore,

burning shore,

Stands the Carthaginian city, glancing all the

Where sublime in self-denial Cincinnatus tills Sways her mighty sceptre o'er the Ocean, wears

handed down. Imperial seat, With the continent around her, and the Ocean

at her feet. age Northern home,
Over many a slaughtered army up unto the walls. Here the fleets of all the nations honor in her watery gate,

When the Senate all assemble so majestic in And above the hum of millions, Carthage rules in royal state.

by every breeze, And the nations bow in reverence to the Mistress

of the Seas. While Camillus lives without, and Manlius in Slowly into stern collision comes the haughty Roman might,

As two swollen clouds encounter in the hurri-

cane at night. farthest lands had gone,
Heirs of Alexander's glory, heirs of deathless When the thunder-laden Heavens overhang the

land and sea, And the roar of meddened conflict bursts be So the furious force of Carthage matches Rome'

unbending pride,
While the world's inferior nations throng in arms to either side. shield are cast away,

Fails the Grecian line of battle at the Romans Speed the storm-tossed navies, forward passing

on to lead the van, Tis the Forum-all around me roars the tide of Rush along the charging squadrons of the fiery

fierce was seen, Never rose so dire a contest o'er the limitless

future age,

And the realms of the hereafter wait upon the

legions on to fame, In the ancient age unequalled till the god-like From his march recoils the Ocean, rolls away

the river tide And the everlasting mountains from before him turn aside.

O'er the fatal field of Cannae rolls the wrathful storm of War.

their sheltering home, And the Carthaginian leader views the very

gates of Rome Linger long, majestic vision! Never in the year Rose an universal people to a station so sub-

Sternly the undaunted city marshals all her for Sternly rise the steadfast people still more glori-

ous from despair. All honor darkening round them fail to crus

them where they rise, But the craven grows a warrior and the warrio

I behold the unskilful Roman rearing navies or the shore,

Conquering Ocean's haughty mistress in an un congenial war. submission to a foeman, baughty Regulus

And he calmly dies a captive in unutterable

NO. 37

When the vanquished chieftain slowly leads has broken legions home, Acolamations greet the leader who could not de

spair of Rome. Thus amid the darkest fortune they can hold s

faith sublime,
That the State should stand eternal till the lates age of Time. Falls the curse of Carthage downward from the

overwhelming fire,
And she wreaks her, fullest vengeance dying on the funeral pyre.

Slowly tolls a sound of menace in her solemn funeral knell, Age of stern Republic grandeur, Age of Free-

dom's hope farewell. When the fear of rival peoples has forever passed away, Then to its own raging passions falls the State

an easier prey. For the menace of a rival starts a nation's laten All her forces wake to action and await the im-

pending strife. E'en the base arise ennobled at the call of glori-

ous Fame,
And the vices die, consuming in the patriot's generous flame.

Now where myriad voiced peoples welcome the proud triumph home, Comes the long march of corruption through the

opening gates of Rome. Bring the spoils of war along. Forevermore un-

touched by fear, Shall the vanquisher of Carthage urge her con-

See—the throng comes pouring forward from depopulated States, Children of unnumbered nations crowding in the

city gates. But in careless condescension Rome can eve find a place,
For the enervated members of each subjugated

race. Here they bring their foreign manners-rare de-

lights before unknown, Treasures from the farther Indies—treasures from the Southern zone.

Luxury advances lightly, with the softest music sound. And the shouting throng enthrone her with a

goddess garland orowned. Avarice advances slowly with her load of golden store, And the shouting throng in reverence bow her

glittering form before. ity leads on the captives to the gladia

fight, And the columned circus rises with its many pillared height.

Freedom looks upon her city, sees her altars Sees extinct the ancient fire that once in match less radiance burned,

Freedom looks upon her children, sees their alienated hearts, Waves her sunbright wings in sadness, and de-

spairingly departs The world will not willingly let die the nam of the illustrious men, nor will it readily forget the sublime and important events of republican Rome. After a lapse of so many ages we still think of them with astonishment and admiration.
Then was Rome "The city that by temperance

fortitude and love of glory." Towered above the clouds,

Few of the monuments of this illustrious period have come down to us, but there are localities which recals incidents strickingly illustrative of Roman character, or are associated with events which were turning points in the world's history.

On the bridge whose ruins are still visible when the Tiber is low, Horatius Cocles kept at bay the Etrurian army, saved his country and imm ized his name. Adjoining the castle of St-Angelo and skirting the Tiber were the Quin-tian meadows, the farm of Cincianatus, whence while at the plough he was taken to be dictator of Rome. Here before us is Mons Sacer the

"How holy, where a generous people twice,"
Twice going forth in terrible anger sate
Armed, and their wrongs redressed, at once gave

way.

Helmet, and shield, and sword, and spear throwndown

And every hand uplifted, every heart

Poured out in thanks to heaven."

Below in the Forum, we can almost see the

outraged father, invoking death to defend a daughter's honor, and

daughter's honor, and her holding up the knife.
That ran with blood, the blood of his own child, Virginius calls down vengeance.
These localities are viewed with intense interas being associated with events, by which the liberties of Rome were extended and perpetuated or which revealed the sublime virtues, the fortitude and resolution of the Roman of the repub-

But this very hill over which I stand is con But this very hill over which affected the very nected with an event which affected the very existence of Rome, and consequently the future destinies of the entire world: For when nothing remained to the Roman but the city and garris-