



A CHRISTMAS ADDRESS,

RESPECTFULLY PRESENTED TO THE PATRONS OF
THE GUARDIAN.

His Maker's image on his soul imprest,
Love, Peace, and Joy the tenants of his breast,
Our great First Parent ranged through Eden's bowers,
But Ah! a Serpent lurked amid the flowers
Even of that blest abode. In evil hour
He yielded to the wily tempter's power,
And ate and died. Thenceforward death o'er all
Acquired dominion. In that hour of fall
The spirit's graces withered, and the frame
Subjected to mortality became;

But brief the ensnarers joy; deep though the gloom
And dark the shadows that o'erhung the tomb,
His voice, who mingles mercy with his wrath
Was heard, as, shedding light on that dark path,
He thus addressed the fiend: "A seed shall be
Born of the woman, which shall bruise of thee
The head. Through all thy members thou shalt feel
The wound, and shalt but slightly bruise his heel."

Sin darkened o'er the world, and guilt and woe
Poisoned the springs of happiness below;
Yet even when heaven's avenging waters gushed
And earth's responsive fountains upward rushed,
Then, in the Ark, upborne upon that wave
Of man and of his works the common grave,
There were to whom that promise shed a ray,
The pledge of an unending blissful day
Beyond the grave, where guilt or pain, or fear,
Darkens the scene no more, for God is near.
Through the dark vista of long coming years,
Ebrightening the hopes and drying up the tears
Of Patriarch, Prophet, Saint, this heavenly light
Beamed through the all surrounding moral night,
Till burst the gates of Heaven on Bethlehem's plains
And Judah's mountains echoed to the strains
Of Seraph harps, as thine the angelic choir,
In tones of heavenly love and notes of fire,
Sang, in harmonious concert, "Highest praise
To God, the Father, men and angels raise!
This hour the GREAT IMMANUEL, Heavenly child!
Is BORN, and God and sinners reconciled!"
Surpassing wonder! David's son and Lord,
Jehovah's equal—equally adored,
Became a helpless babe! No palace walls
Received "THE PRINCE OF PEACE." The oxen's stalls
His Mother's only chamber, and the hay
Their manger held, the cradle where he lay.

O for a Seraph's harp, a Seraph's tongue
To wake again the heaven-born strains that sung
That sacred power of everlasting love
Which brought the SAVIOUR from his throne above,
To Save a Guilty World—to bear the woe
Their guilt deserved, and triumph o'er their foe!
Not wholly vain the wish. Heaven hath bestowed
A power to sound the glorious theme abroad
Wherever breezes blow—or oceans roll,
And spread the gladsome news from pole to pole.

The Goth had blotted Science from the land,
And Superstition's soul benumbing hand
For ages ruled the earth. Beneath her sway
Virtue declined and knowledge pined away;
Till PRINTING dawned upon the world, and broke
Bigotry's spell, and Ignorance's yoke,
Set free the thrall'd conscience, and unveiled
The page, misnamed devotion had concealed,
Though Jesus bade explore it to acquire
Knowledge of Him, and quicken our desire
For Life Eternal. Then commenced the day
Of intellectual light, pouring its ray,
With still increasing power from age to age,
On Nature's book and Revelation's page.

Feeble, perchance, or lost amidst the blaze
May seem the GUARDIAN'S gleam to those who gaze
Upon the splendid whole. The more are due
Our grateful thanks, its generous friends to you
Who fanned its feeble spark into a flame,
Which, fed and still replenished by the same
Kind influence, long we trust, shall lend its ray
To aid the Pilgrim on his Heaven-ward way.
And may that Peace proclaimed in Bethlehem's plain,
Which this best day commemorates again,

Which He who then was born alone bestows,
Peace the world hath not, nor the worldling knows,
Which change cannot affect, nor death destroy
"The soul's calm sunshine and the heart-felt joy"
Be yours, till life's vain fever fit is o'er
And Heavenly voices greet you to that shore
Where troubles cease, and pain is felt no more.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 25th, 1839.

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