

Example, that His powerful rays may stimulate to the healthiest growth, even unto fruit bearing. Then, indeed, may we expect to find that the child has come to love unselfishness for its own sake, and that this love, rather than the knowledge that selfishness is base and mean, has come to be the compelling force in his dealings with others.

May the great Head Gardener impart to all His under gardeners, wisdom and patience so to train the children, that they may be as "plants grown up in their youth."

Trinidad, B.W.I.

Grace Before Meat

A FORM FOR CHILDREN'S USE

Dear All-Father, by whose bounty
Bird and beast and man are fed,
Now to Thee our thanks we offer
For Thy gift of daily bread.
Be Thou near, our food to bless
While we eat in thankfulness.

Telling the Christmas Story

A HINT TO PARENTS

By Miss Violet Robinson

Once there was no Christmas Day, nor Christmas presents, such as we have them now. The reason for this was, that Christ, God's great Gift to the world, whose birthday we keep on Christmas Day, had not yet come.

For many long years God's people had been waiting for the promised Prince and Saviour, whose coming had been foretold by Isaiah, Micah, and the other prophets, but when at last He came, very few people knew anything about it; it all happened very quietly, and in this way:

There was a good woman called Mary, whose husband's name was Joseph. Though poor, they were the true descendants of the royal house of David, the "shepherd king" of Israel.

One day an angel came to Mary and told her that God would send her a holy Babe, who should be the Son of God, whom she was to call Jesus, meaning Saviour, for He should save His people from their sins.

Soon after this, Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem, the city of David, to pay their tax-money. The town was so crowded with visitors that there was no room for them in the inn, so Mary and Joseph had to sleep in the stable. It was here that the Babe, Jesus, was born; and when His mother had wrapped Him in His baby clothes, she laid Him to sleep in a manger among the hay.

The first people to hear that Christ had come, were some shepherds. They were out in the fields near Bethlehem at night, watching their sheep to see that no wild beast came near.

Suddenly, in the midst of the darkness, they saw a light from heaven, which was so dazzling that at first they were greatly frightened. But an angel spoke to them, saying, "*Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*" And, looking up, the shepherds saw hundreds and hundreds of angels, and the sky was filled with their music as they sang together, "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*"

When the angels had gone back into heaven, the shepherds rose up, and went to Bethlehem, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger, exactly as they had been told. Then, when they had seen the Child, the shepherds went away, and began to spread the good news, telling every one they met what they had seen and heard.

About this time, certain wise men, living far away in an eastern country, set out on a journey to find the heavenly Prince who should be called "King of the Jews," that they might come and worship Him.

In order that these strangers might find their way, God had put a wonderful star in the sky to guide them, and, as they travelled on, following the star, at last it stopped above the house in which the Babe Jesus lay.

As soon as the Wise Men entered the house they saw Mary and the Child, and at once they fell down and began to praise and worship Him as King. Then, opening their boxes, they offered Him precious gifts—gold, sweet-smelling frankincense, and myrrh,