

wild hope that Messiah would restore the kingdom to its Davidic unity and greatness led them to reject a man of such low estate, and who plainly declared that his "kingdom was not of this world." 'Had Jesus arrayed himself in the shining armour of an earthly conqueror, and caused himself to be crowned as a worldly king, and used his miraculous power to establish himself on the throne of David in the city of his fathers, the Jews, with tumultuous ecstasy, would have flocked by thousands to his standard, and cried 'Hosanna !' 'to the death, and rushing, like veritable dogs of war, against the hated Roman would have swept him, like chaff before the wind, from the coasts of Palestine.

The speaker's voice rang with triumph and his breast heaved and his eyes glowed with real martial fire. Perhaps he shot a glance into the future and in the picture he had drawn saw mirrored the coming kingship and glory of his Lord.

"But it was not to be then, he must needs drink the cup of humiliation to its dregs, and the Jews accusing him of blasphemy and treason, he yielded himself to be crucified."

"That reminds me of what the minister told us last Sunday, he said that the life of Jesus on earth was the period of his humiliation."

The exaltation had changed to sadness. The flame flickered and subsided and as they sat by no light save that of the fire, the gloom of the winter evening, relieved only by mystic light from the glowing coals, filled the room. When uncle George spoke again there was the mournful cadence of deep pathos in the rich tones of his voice.

"The humiliation of our Lord affects me more than any other thought I have ever experienced. I think of his departure from Heaven as from a lofty mountain peak all day long bathed in the glorious sunlight, and picture him piercing the thick curtain of earth cloud that hangs about the shoulders of the hills, and see him descending deep into the darkness of the storm—shrouded valley of humiliation. O, how cheerless and heartless and sorrowful it is ! I see him a wanderer with no place where to lay his head ! I see him the incarnation of the true, the beautiful, and the good, misunderstood and misrepresented I see him the World's Saviour the object of the world's scorn and ridicule and fierce hate ! I see him, all unprotected and unaided, alone in his native poverty and meekness, exposed to the powerful attacks of the tempter ! I see him arraigned before corrupt judges, accused by false witnesses and murdered on the ignominious cross ! On the cross his humiliation was complete ; there he reached the bottom of the valley ; there the darkness was total for the face of his God was hidden and his few followers deserted him. O, wonder of wonders, sacrifice of sacrifices, charity of charities ! To me it seems strange that the angels should sing when Jesus was born. Could there be joy in heaven when Jesus wept on