

1823

A HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS DAY,

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CHRIStIANS, awake! salute the happy morn
Whereon the Saviour of mankind was born;
Rise to adore the Mystery of Love,
Which hosts of Angels chaunted from above;
With them the joyful Tidings first begun
Of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

Then to the watchful Shepherds it was told,
Who heard th' Angelic Herald's voice, "Behold!
"I bring glad tidings of a SAVIOUR'S birth
"To you, and all the Nations upon earth!
"This day hath GOD fulfill'd his promised word,
"This day, is born a SAVIOUR, CHRIST the LORD;

"In Davids City, Shepherds, ye will find,
"The long foretold REDEEMER of mankind,
"Wrapt up in swaddling cloths, the BABE Divine
"Lies in a Manger, this shall be your sign!"
He spake, and straightway the celestial choir
In hymns of joy unknown before conspire.

The praises of redeeming love they sung,
And heaven's whole orb in hallelujahs rung:
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
Peace upon earth, and mutual good will.
'To Bethlehem straight th' enlightened shepherds ran
To see the wonders God had wrought for man.

Artless and watchful as these favour'd swains
While virgin meekness in the heart remains,
Trace we the BABE, who has retriev'd our loss,
From his poor manger to his bitter cross;
Tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,
Till man's first heavenly state again takes place.

Then may we hope, th' angelic thrones among,
To find redeem'd, a glad triumphant throng,
He that was born upon this joyful day;
Around us all his glory shall display;
Sav'd by his love, incessant we shall sing
Eternal praise, to heaven's all powerful King,

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