



THE STAR IN THE EAST.

### The Star in the East.

BY HARRIET AUBER.

Bright was the guiding star that led,  
With mild benignant ray,  
The wise men to the lowly shed  
Where the Redeemer lay.

But lo, a brighter, clearer light  
Now points to his abode:  
It shines through sin and sorrow's night,  
To guide us to our God.

Oh, haste to follow where it leads,  
The gracious call obey;  
Be rugged wilds, or flowery meads,  
The Christian's destined way.

Oh, gladly tread the narrow path  
While light and grace are given;  
Who meekly follow Christ on earth,  
Shall reign with him in heaven.

### The Three Kings.

THREE Kings came riding from far away,  
Melchior and Gaspar and Baltasar:  
Three Wise Men out of the East were they,  
And they travelled by night and they slept  
by day,  
For their guide was a beautiful, wonderful  
star.

The star was so beautiful, large and clear,  
That all the other stars of the sky  
Became a white mist in the atmosphere,  
And by this they knew that the coming was  
near  
Of the Prince foretold in the prophecy.

Three caskets they bore on their saddle-bows,  
Three caskets of gold with golden keys;  
Their robes were of crimson silk with rows  
Of bells and pomegranates and furbelows,  
Their turbans like blossoming almond-trees.

And so the Three Kings rode into the West,  
Through the dusk of night, over hill and  
dell,  
And sometimes they nodded with beard on  
breast,  
And sometimes talked, as they paused to rest,  
With the people they met at some way-side  
well.

"Of the Child that is born," said Baltasar,  
"Good people, I pray you tell us the news;  
For we in the East have seen his star,  
And have ridden fast, and have ridden far,  
To find and worship the King of the Jews."

And the people answered, "You ask in vain;  
We know of no king but Herod the Great!"  
They thought the Wise Men were men insane,  
As they spurred their horses across the plain,  
Like riders in haste and who cannot wait.

And when they came to Jerusalem,  
Herod the Great, who had heard this thing,  
Sent for the Wise Men and questioned them;  
And said, "Go down unto Bethlehem,  
And bring me tidings of this new king."

So they rode away; and the star stood still,  
The only one in the gray of morn;  
Yes, it stopped, it stood still of its own free  
will,  
Right over Bethlehem on the hill,  
The city of David where Christ was born.

And the three Kings rode through the gate  
and the guard,  
Through the silent street, till their horses  
turned

And neighed as they entered the great inn-  
yard;  
But the windows were closed, and the doors  
were barred,  
And only a light in the stable burned.

And cradled there in the scented hay,  
In the air made sweet by the breath of kine,  
The little Child in the manger lay,  
The Child, that would be King one day  
Of a kingdom not human but divine.

His mother, Mary of Nazareth,  
Sat watching beside his place of rest,  
Watching the even flow of his breath,  
For the joy of life and the terror of death  
Were mingled together in her breast.

They laid their offerings at his feet:  
The gold was their tribute to a King,  
The frankincense, with its odour sweet,  
Was for the Priest, the Paraclete,  
The myrrh for the body's burying.

And the mother wondered and bowed her  
head,  
And sat as still as a statue of stone;  
Her heart was troubled yet comforted,  
Remembering what the Angel had said  
Of an endless reign and of David's throne.

Then the Kings rode out of the city gate,  
With a clatter of hoofs in proud array;  
But they went not back to Herod the Great,  
For they knew his malice and feared his hate,  
And returned to their homes by another  
way.

## LESSON NOTES.

### THIRD QUARTER.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF OUR LORD.

B.C. 4.] LESSON III. (July 15.

VISIT OF THE WISE MEN.

Matt. 2, 1, 2. Memory verses, 9-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

They saw the young child with Mary his  
mother, and fell down and worshipped him.  
—Matt. 2, 11.

OUTLINE.

1. The Light of the Star, v. 1-2.
2. The Light of the Scriptures, v. 3-8.
3. The Light of the World, v. 9-12.

TIME—B.C. 4.

PLACES.—Jerusalem. Bethlehem.

EXPLANATIONS.

1. "Jesus was born"—He came a helpless  
baby, born as are all men: never forget that.  
"Wise men from the east"—Legend gives  
their names, Caspar, Melchior, Baltassar.  
They were such as are called in Daniel *Magi*,  
and they came from the home of the Magi,  
Persia, or some other far eastern land.

2. "Born king"—Herod was not born  
king; he was made so by the Romans. Jesus  
was born to be a king. "His star"—Those  
were the days when the learned were astrolog-  
ers, and believed that each man was born  
under the influence of some star. His star  
was probably a miraculous light, but the star  
was no more a miracle than the fact that they  
were led to ask their question concerning it.

3. "Written by the prophet"—Written  
by Micah centuries before, and well under-  
stood by all students of the Scriptures in that  
day.

6. "Among the princes"—  
Among the towns of Judah  
Inquired . . . . . diligent-  
ly that is, inquired carefully  
as to the exact time of the appear-  
ance. "What time the star  
appeared"—That is, how long  
since it first appeared.

11. "Frankincense and myrrh"  
Fragrant and costly gums,  
valuable as perfumes, and  
symbols of devotion when offered.

HOMER READINGS.

- M. Visit of the wise men.—  
Matt. 1, 1-12.  
Tu Light of the world.—Isa.  
60, 1-7.  
W. The prophecy.—Micah 5, 1-4.  
Th. Worship and gifts.—Psalm  
72, 1-15.  
F. Of no reputation.—Phil. 2,  
1-11.  
S. Honour to Christ.—John 5,  
17-23.  
Su. Worthy the Lamb.—Rev. 5,  
8-14.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where in this lesson are we  
taught—

1. That God's Word is true?
2. That we should bring our best gifts to  
Jesus?
3. That God will protect his own?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What name was given to the Saviour  
before his birth? "Thou shalt call his name  
Jesus: for he shall save his people from their  
sins." (Matt. 1, 21.) 2. Where was Jesus  
born? "In Bethlehem of Judaea." 3. Who  
came to Jerusalem seeking him? "Wise men  
from the East." 4. By what were they led  
to Christ? "By a star." 5. How did they  
honour him? "With worship and gifts." 6.  
Repeat the Golden Text. "They saw," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The royalty of  
Christ.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

What is regeneration, or the new birth?  
It is the work of God in the soul, by the  
Spirit, which begins the new life in Christ  
Jesus.

WHILE spending recently a few days at  
the house of a friend in a Middle Ten-  
nessee town we met with a frank and in-  
genious boy of sixteen, a kinsman of our  
host. The son of well-to-do parents, he has  
been for several years in attendance upon  
a first-class boarding school; but just as  
soon as the school is ended he goes home,  
puts on his rough clothes, and makes a full  
hand upon the farm; and seems to regard  
this as a perfectly natural arrangement.  
Out of such boys the ruling men of the next  
generation are to be made. The parents  
who rear their sons in idleness are doing  
them an unspeakable harm. Every boy is  
entitled to know by actual experience what  
hard manual labour means, and to get the  
blessing that comes from toughened mus-  
cles and a sun-tanned skin.—*Christian  
Advocate.*

### BITS OF FUN.

Grandma—"Bobby, what are you doing  
in the pantry?" Bobby—"Oh, I'm just  
putting a few things away, gran'ma."

"The sentence is that ye be hanged,"  
said a Welsh judge to a poor criminal; "and  
I hope it may prove a warning to you."

She—"I think Wagner's music is per-  
fectly beautiful, don't you?" He—"Fair-  
ish; but he'd better stick to his car-build-  
ing: he can make more money."

Haughty Lady (who has just pur-  
chased a stamp)—"Must I put it on my-  
self?" Stamp Clerk—"Not necessarily.  
It will probably accomplish more if you put  
it on the letter."

Visitor—"Tommy, I wish to ask you a  
few questions in grammar." Tommy—  
"Yes, sir." Visitor—"If I give you the  
sentence, 'The pupil loves his teacher,'  
what is that?" Tommy—"Sarcasm."

Flossie was watching the masons lay  
bricks, and the process interested her  
greatly, "Oh, mamma," she exclaimed, as  
she saw the man putting on the mortar,  
"they're buttering the bricks, ain't they?"

### Weeds.

HAVE you seen the city folk riding by,  
With hungry glances at field and sky,  
And exclamations of quick delight  
At the sight of a meadow with daisies white?  
They do not know  
That a field of daisies should never grow;  
And I envy them so!

Have you ever at eve of a midsummer's day,  
When the air was sweet with the scent of  
hay,  
Felt a sweeter perfume upon you steal,  
And strangely that perfume makes you feel  
So sad, for you know  
A field of thistles should never grow?  
I am sorry 'tis so.

Have you heard of the distant desert land,  
Where the cactus blooms in arid sand  
So thick it blocks the traveller's way,  
And no green in the lonely plain but they  
Can live and grow?  
So the cactus is only a weed, you know,  
Though we prize it so!

Have you ever noted a field of wheat  
As it waves in the summer breeze and heat,  
With here and there in the yellow rows  
A pretty pink blossom as red as a rose!  
It will please you so!  
But the weed ought not in the wheat to  
grow.  
Still they can never weed it out, you know,  
And I'm glad it's so.

But wheat would not be allowed to head  
If it set its roots in an onion bed—  
You'll find it so;  
If a stalk of wheat in the garden grow,  
It's a weed, you know.

From the daisied hay  
And the thistle grain  
The moral we draw  
Is simple and plain  
And cogent and brilliant  
And lucid and clear—  
A weed is a flower  
Dropped out of its sphere!

A RECENT German writer says: "The  
lark goes up singing toward heaven; but if  
she stops the motion of her wings, then  
straightway she falls. So it is with him who  
prays not. Prayer is the movement of the  
wings of the soul; it bears one heavenward,  
but without prayer we sink.

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