

the happiness of all His loving and obedient creatures, each in his own degree. These pure and mighty angels knew that in God's wisdom it was ordained that, in the highest sense of the word, men and not angels were to be the sons of God. It had already been made known to the Church of God by the voice of inspiration that in this sense it was not to angels but to man that God had said,—“thou art My son, this day have I begotten Thee,” and it is through His Church, as St. Paul tells us, that the highest mysteries of God are made known to the angels. Receiving the word and will of God as their highest happiness, it was—not with envy but with joy—they learned that to no angel but to man God had said “thou art My son.” They knew that in the great Day of Account Man should judge the angels.

In the angelic song and salutation we therefore perceive the dividing line between those angels who kept their first estate and those who lost it utterly and forever. We see that glory to God in the highest can only be rendered by those to whom God's will is the highest law. None others can enter into the joy of the Lord, or be happy in His pure presence. By the utter change which came upon those who fell, a restless ambition—a seeking the gratification of self-will became the highest aim of which they were capable. To them and their followers heaven would be utterly intolerable.

“Evil, be thou my good.”

The feast of the Incarnation, Christmas, comes to us, year by year, bringing the peace of God to men of good will,—for those only whose wills are being daily conformed to

God's will can receive and practice the peace of God, which flows from supreme love to God and to man, for God's sake. The feast of the Incarnation is above all others the love-feast of the true followers of Christ, for if we claim to be members of Christ, we thereby claim to be members one of another. If we have this divine charity, we rejoice with those who do rejoice, and weep with those who weep. The proof of our unity with Christ is our unity with one another. The human echoes to the angel's Christmas song of peace can only come from a heart touched and warmed by a love of God free from the bitterness of envy, ambition or any other form of selfishness.

### MISSIONARY WORK IN CALIFORNIA.

SKETCH NO. I, FROM ACUTAL LIFE.

Man was made in the image of God, and although by the disobedience of our first parents God's image in man's soul was broken, yet it was not utterly destroyed. In the soul of every human being the fragments remain, for no race of human beings has yet been found so degraded as to deny the existence of a God and a hereafter in a spiritual world. The profession of this denial is the unenviable peculiarity of that sort of heathen who grow up amidst gospel surroundings, and obstinately reject them, shutting their eyes to gospel light.

A very remarkable instance of this sort of heathenism is found in a mining town in the mountains between San Francisco and Tulare, California. A large number of the men of that place having formed an infidel society, engage an infidel lec-