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GLORY TO GOD, PEACE TO MEN OF GOOD WILL.

NEARLY nineteen hundred years have elapsed since over an humble stable in the village of Bethlehem a chorus of blessed spirits sang from on high the above divine canticle. A new star had arisen in the east; the long-promised MESSIAH, the deliverer of Israel, had come into the world. The King of Kings, the Saviour of mankind was born. He, whose coming had been so long foretold by the prophets, and whose advent on earth had been so anxiously expected, came not as a mighty prince or ruler. He was not born in a palace, swaddled in purple and fine linen, but in an humble abode of indigence and cradled in a manger.

His coming had not been heralded forth to the great and mighty; and kings and princes did not crowd to bow in homage before him; but angels proclaimed the tidings to men of low estate; and by this first act in his earthly career proclaimed Him the friend, the brother, the Saviour of the suffering, the poor and lowly.

From the earliest ages kings, heroes, and illustrious men had become the gods of nations, but their glory soon passed away to be replaced by more favored idols. How different with the babe of Bethlehem. He was the reputed son of a poor carpenter of Judea, born in sorrow and indigence, reared in poverty and surrounded by the poorest and humblest, yet he taught and inculcated a moral philosophy that, by its purity and sublimity, shamed the wisdom of Rome and Greece. The Jewish theology,

though one of abnegation, was sadly devoid of true charity. It was the Philosophy of religion and humanity combined. Though it worshipped God in prayers and sacrifice, it exacted an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. CHRIST, on the other hand, selected his disciples from the lowest; he preached a religion of charity, mortification and self-denial. He instituted new relations among men, a purer code of morality and public faith. His religion was one of love, of faith, of charity, and soon the dark codes and false superstitions of Paganism fell before it, and the light of Christianity illuminated by its cheering rays the whole world.

His character was as spotless as his teachings were pure and virtuous, and even the bitterest Pagans never dared to asperse His unblemished life.

Pure and sanctified, he breathed nothing but love of God—of unbounded charity, as the evangelist says—"He went about doing good."

He was the man of sorrows; nursed in griefs, his heart melted at the sufferings of others, while to poor humanity His constant exhortation was "love one another!"

How consoling are the precepts of his beatitudes, to the poor, the afflicted and the unfortunate—"Blessed are they that mourn; blessed are they that hunger and thirst, etc."

How cheering are these words of hope and peace and comfort to the poor, even in these sad Christmas times. Life is but short at best, and if we but bear our trials, and afflictions with Christian resignation, we are assured of a reward of