

A little cry goes shivering
Between the night and morn,—
The holy night of wonder,
When God on earth was born;
A shadow in the darkness
Across the lighted pane—
This is Thy time, O Son of Man,
And hast Thou come again?

It is Thine image only,—
The likeness of the Son,
Whose home was Mary's bosom,
The sole-begotten One;
Thine image, marred and broken,
Born of the world's long sin,
That wanders wide this Christmas night
And no man takes it in!

Thy crownless head in Bethlehem
Lay in the manger poor;
For Thee no fire was lighted,
There swung no open door:
O'er all Judea's hillsides,
In all her cities fair,
There was no room save one poor stall
For David's Lord and Heir!

And still the child and mother
By many a weary way,
Through ages lost and lonely,
Go wandering far astray—
Homeless, by red-lit windows
Where children round the knee
Crowd close to hear of Him who came
A Babe in Galilee.

They hear from echoing belfries
The first glad tidings rung,
And round God's shining altars
Christ's mass in splendor sung.
They crouch, athirst and hungered,
They knock and are denied—
And outcast as of old, they keep
The world's great Christmas-tide.

Thou Child who borst earth's sorrows,
We give Thee, as we gave,
Only the bitter bread of tears,
Only the cross and grave!
But Thou, O Son of Mary,
In that Thy Day of Doom,
Shall hold the shining gates of Heaven
Where we would fain find room;
Grant us, O Judge tremendous,
When we as outcasts stand,
To see beside an open door
The stretching of Thy Hand!

"And there was no room for
them in the inn"



MY EXPERIENCE IN BIBLE STUDY.

I had childhood's interest in Bible history, and especially in the stories of Joseph and Samson. In those years I committed to memory portions of Scripture, as Sabbath-school scholars used to do. At an early age my attention was called to religion, and then I began to study the Bible from the sense of duty, and found there, in the inward conflicts that soon arose, weapons to ward off my enemies, and remembered that with such weapons Christ repelled Satan's deceitful attacks.

At this period a sufferer told me that in nights of anguish Bible passages learned in health often revealed their richness with sustaining power. This quickened me in learning Scripture, that I too might have a foundation for the days of trial to come.

In college I revered and read the Bible,

and desired to have some mastery in its lore, but did not clearly see how to attain it? Not until after college days did I realize that the Bible should be studied much as we study the Greek and Latin and English classics, for the Bible has literary perfection as well as they. Isaiah has all the simplicity, the sublimity, the fire of Homer; and for those who seek to fathom Job the book affords no less reward than Shakespeare's Hamlet.

This might be expected, for the Bible writers were men of sense, and had weightiest things to say, with the earnestness of conviction wrought in them by the Holy Spirit. Indeed, the individual verses of Scripture are precious; and one is rich who has a store of them at his command. But Scripture verses are not unstrung pearls; they are not severed state-

ments, but words fitly framed together into many a rich discourse.

My teacher brought from his treasure things new and old; and guided us into the way of exploring Scripture. Greek was most helpful in New Testament studies under this eminent teacher. The Hebrew was needed not only for Old Testament study but for deeper knowledge of the New Testament. But Hebrew looked formidable, and I was on the point of yielding to obstacles that arose as I entered upon its study, but I was dissuaded from such weakness, and soon had some facility in the language. Now I possessed essential helps for Bible study; and the best that I have achieved has been through the aid of its originals.

The Bible, as its name declares, is the Book of books, and therefore deserves our

chief regard. But we should not therefore despise any department of useful knowledge; we do well to drink at as many pure fountains as possible, that so we may gain the greatest enlargement of mind and heart. Thus we shall be qualified to apprehend something of the mysteries of the Bible—to apprehend things that are incomprehensible!

In my study of the Bible its originals have been my best helps. Commentaries based upon those originals have been invaluable. Studies in words, study of standard English authors, study of modern languages—all have lent me their aid. For achievement in Bible study that deserves all our zeal one might well desire to equip himself with all that has ever been wisely said or sung.—Thomas Hill Rich, in *Morning Star*.