

those regions. To persons engaged in this occupation, the incarnation of the Saviour of men was first announced by the angel, most probably the angel Gabriel, who came upon them unexpectedly, attended by what in Scripture is called *the glory of the Lord*. This was an effulgent appearance of the Divine Glory, which frequently accompanied the communication of a message from Heaven—was what descended upon Mount Sinai at the giving of the law—and entered the Holy of the Holies at the dedication of the temple of Solomon. Whenever such revelations were made under the Old Testament dispensation, those to whom they were given were much impressed with the event, and struck with awe and terror. There was no image of the Divine Glory in the second temple; so that nothing similar had been known to the Jews for about six hundred years.

It was no wonder, then, that the shepherds were sore afraid; but the angel, perceiving the agitation in which they were, desired them not to be afraid, and restored them to tranquility by imparting to them the cause of his thus appearing, and communicating the joyous intelligence, that “the Desire of all nations,” the Saviour, Christ the Lord, was this day born in the city of David.

While the shepherds stood astonished at the heavenly messenger, and at the wonderful things which proceeded out of his mouth, they were, if possible, more amazed by the sudden appearance of a multitude of the heavenly host, who joined the angel, and united with him in an anthem of praise to Jehovah, whose unbounded and immeasurable love to fallen man was so illustriously displayed in sending his son into the world.—What formed the subjects of the symphony of this angelic choir, and which they addressed to the throne of the Eternal, was “Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, and good will towards men.”

The shepherds were not disobedient to the heavenly vision. As soon as the angels had gone away from them into

heaven, they made haste to see the wonder which had come to pass, and were the highly favored individuals who were permitted first to hail the Redeemer of Israel, and to present their congratulations to her whom all generations should call blessed. They found everything exactly as described by the angel, and spread abroad the fame of the child, so that all that heard it wondered. The shepherds themselves were particularly affected with what they had seen and heard, and returned glorifying and praising God.—*Scripture Cabinet*.

“Can Jesus’ Blood Rub it Out?”

One pleasant afternoon a lady was sitting with her little son, a white haired boy five years of age. The mother was sick, and the child had left his play to stay with her, and was amusing himself in printing his name with a pencil on paper.

Suddenly his busy fingers stopped. He had made a mistake, and wetting his finger, he tried again and again to rub out the mark, as he had been accustomed to do on his slate.

“My son,” said his mother, “do you know that God writes down all you do in a book?—He writes every naughty word, every disobedient act, every time you indulge in temper and shake your shoulders, or pout your lips; and, my boy, you *never can rub it out!*”

The little boy’s face grew very red, and in a moment tears ran down his cheeks. His mother’s eye was on him earnestly, but she said nothing more. In a moment he came softly to her side, threw his arms around her neck, and whispered, “Can Jesus’ blood rub it out?”

Dear children, Christ’s blood can rub out this dreadful account; but not without you pray to him to have it done. Go to him, then, and feel that he is near you like your father and mother, only more able to help you than they can be. Try to be good