



"WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT

SONGS OF THE ANGELS.

WHILE shepherds watched their flocks by night,

All seated on the ground;
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he,—for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind,—
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
To you and all mankind.

"To you in David's town this day,
Is born of David's line
The Saviour who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed
All meanly wrapped in swathing-bands
And in a manger laid"

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels, praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,
And on the earth be peace;
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease!"

WHAT POLL SAID.

A MAN who owned a parrot taught it to say "There's no doubt about it." One day the owner resolved to sell his bird, and for this purpose he took it to the market-place. "Who will buy my bird 'only two pounds," he said. A passer-by, pleased with the appearance of the parrot, said, "Poll, are you worth so much?" "There's no doubt about it," said Poll. Gratified by the little creature's apparent intelligence, the admirer paid the two pounds and took the bird home. Some days afterward he was standing near the cage, talking to himself aloud,

when he said,
"What a fool I
was to give two
pounds for that
bird!" "There's
no doubt about it,"
cried Poll.

It is just so with some persons. They never seem to have any mind of their own, but always agree with the one they happen to be with. Very likely, too, they don't stick to their work any better than to their opinions. When one lesson is half learned Kate takes up the next, and so goes into the class without knowing either of them. John begins to collect postage stamps, gives them up for coins, and then switches off to medals. The best way is to be sure you are right, and then go ahead; or as the Book says, "Hold fast that which is good!"

THE SHEPHERD DOG.

IN those parts of the country where the people have large flocks of sheep, they always have a shepherd dog to tend the flocks. And the dog is a great help to the shepherd. He always keeps on the watch, takes care that the animals go the right way; and as soon as he sees a sheep straying from the flock, he rushes up and drives it back to its proper place.

The sheep soon find that the dog is their friend, and will obey him even when they will not listen to the shepherd.

Some years ago there was a large flock of sheep among the mountains. One night some of the lambs got frightened and ran away in three different directions. Of course the poor shepherd could not go three ways at once, so he called his dog and started him off after one band while he went another way.

He hunted all night but could not find them, and in the morning he was so hungry and tired that he made up his mind to go home. When he came to the sheep-fold he saw a flock of lambs and his dog guarding them, and he found that not a single lamb was missing, but that the smart dog had found all three bands and brought them back to the fold.



BETHLEHEM.

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"And thou, Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda. For out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel."

THERE came a little Child to earth,
Long ago;
And the angels of God proclaimed
His birth
High and low.

Out of the night so calm and still
Their song was heard,
For they knew that the Child on Be-
thlehem's hill
Was Christ, the Lord.

IN SUMMER TIME.

BY S. D.

"Oh, I want to take a peep at the fishes."

"Stop, then, and I will hold you." Lulu and her brother were taking a walk in the woods. She was a kind little girl and was willing to wait while he looked down into the tiny brook.

"Oh, I see some little fishes!" he cried. "See how they scoot about. I guess they are playing tag."

"Lulu," he said, as they walked on, "you s'pose the little fishes are glad summer has come?"

"I guess so," she said. "I guess everything is glad. We are glad."

"And the little birds. I know they must be glad, because they sing so."

"And the bees. They go humming about to find honey in all the pretty flowers."

"Do you believe the flowers are glad too?"

"Well, I think they must be, because they are so sweet. And because God loves them. And the trees and vines too. How they seem to smile in the sun. Yes; I think that everything that lives makes must be happy."

Do you think Lulu was right? But of all happy things, what do you think of a little brother and sister who love each other?

I hope all our little SUNBEAM readers are enjoying the summer, with all the thoughts of the good Father.