

manger of straw. The very beauty of the Babe whispered of something divine. The little lips could part in a smile that said unutterable things. The infantile voice could coo with feeble cry, and the sweet eyes shine with love unspeakable.

Not so in the Host. Lips and voice and eyes are hushed and blinded there in bands which only a miracle may sunder, and through its fragile veil no ray of His loveliness may gleam.

More helpless than in infancy He depends upon His priests for shelter and for care. Like Joseph they must guard Him; lift Him that He may bless; bear Him through the crowded streets to the sick; lay Him back upon the altar-crib where minute after minute He waits their bidding. The Creator, obeying His feeble creatures! How utterly He trusts them! Often must they fly with Him to the Egypt of some alien abode, far from modern Herods, who would slay Him if they could. The world, too busy with its own interests to have room for Him, rejects Him as did the Bethlehemites long ago. Yet, as the lowly Babe of the manger breathes throughout the ages joy, even to those who do not believe, as His birthday comes yearly around, so the humble Host breathes grace upon those who reject It.

Like "Madonna and Child," the Veiled Presence of the Catholic altar is art's noblest inspiration.

The star of the sanctuary-lamp shines not only upon worshippers like unto the shepherds and the kings, but upon the wondering faces of many who come with conscious worship, perhaps, but in answer to a nameless "something" they cannot resist. Ah! to how many groping in spiritual darkness may we not bear the "glad tidings," that unto us is born anew, at dawn of every day, Christ, our Lord, once a shivering Babe in a manger? In the tender words of the children's hymn we will bid them "Come and adore" at the lowly altar, where He lies to-day in the swathing-bands of the Host. They will see gathered about Him there, little children and aged men, beggar, maiden and millionaire, the joyous and the sorrow-laden and if, listening to our pleading, they will come with faith and love, He will breathe into their hearts, too, the peace which the angels promised.