

The stars shone down ; the moon  
 Beam'd gently as of old ; the breeze now stirr'd ;  
 The flocks began to browse, the crickets chirp'd ;  
 The night-hawk darted gloomily ; the trees  
 Shook out their waken'd leaves ; the shepherds breath'd,  
 And moved again their lately stiffen'd limbs.

Forthwith they hasten'd to confirm the sign,  
 And found the Infant in the manger laid ;  
 Then spread abroad the news to them first given.

Thus first was heralded to this dark world  
 The coming of a bright, illustrious day ;  
 Thus, born in lowliness, thus, humbly poor,  
 Despis'd, rejected, scorn'd, brought down to death,  
 Jesus was usher'd with this noble song  
 Of Heavenly hosts, forth to His lowly life.  
 Thus Heav'n stoop'd down to earth, and shew'd to men  
 What grandeur, glory, bliss beyond compare  
 Was left by Him, and is prepar'd for them  
 Who, lowly foll'wing Him, earth's pomps forego.  
 In God's own form, He grasp'd not Heaven's high state,  
 But for the mending of our hopeless lot  
 Bent down to earth, assum'd the flesh of man  
 In humblest fashion came, that we might rise  
 Through suffering here, to bliss with Him beyond.

BASIL S. T. MARRIOTT.

Dec. 20th, 1892.

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## WHAT SHOULD A CLERGYMAN READ ?

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"Will you be diligent in reading of the Holy Scriptures, and *in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same*, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh?"—is the inquiry in the Ordinal.

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"It is urged by some that, unless the literature of the day be kept pace with, a parish priest knows not how to direct his public teaching ; and that his influence in society suffers from his inability to sympathize with those among whom he lives. There is some truth in this ; but the disadvantage is often overstated. On the other hand, there are but twelve hours in the day ; and since those which an active Shepherd of souls can give to reading are, of necessity, few, it is for him to decide how many shall be given to secular literature. It cannot be doubted that