



THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.

"Then did the wise men offerings bring,  
Where shone the star of Bethlehem."

THE SHEPHERD AND THE STARS.

BY GEORGE W. HUNGAY.

How glorious the midnight skies,  
How vast the space of light unfurled:  
The stars watch with unclouded eyes  
The welfare of a sleeping world  
The jewel of night's diadem  
Is the soft star of Bethlehem.  
The shepherds on the plains afar

Were watching their white flocks at night  
When they beheld the rising star  
That filled the space with heavenly light.  
It was a lamp from heaven to them,  
It was the star of Bethlehem.

They saw the heavenly host come down,  
They heard the holy angels sing,  
A King was born whom heaven will crown;  
Then did the wise men offerings bring,  
Myrrh, frankincense, and many a gem,

Where shone the star of Bethlehem.  
The Child was in a humble shed  
With lowing oxen in the stall,  
A glory circle round his head;  
He was indeed the King of all,  
Worthy to wear the diadem,  
The glorious star of Bethlehem.

"Peace upon earth, good-will to men,"  
Was the theme of the angels' song.  
The white-winged choir returned again

To heaven, singing their path along.  
How white the light of that sweet gem,  
The radiant star of Bethlehem!  
From the low manger to the cross,  
And from the cross the world around,  
Where many deem their gain but loss,  
The light of this fair star is found.  
It is the lamp of heaven to them,  
It is the star of Bethlehem!

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