

“ A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He hath borne our infirmities and carried our sorrows,”
 “ The reproach of men and the outcast of the people,”
 “ My heart expected reproach and misery, and I looked for one that would grieve together with me and there was none.”

Somehow these words seemed to point strangely to Jesus, her little friend, with His love and pity for the sick and poor and sorrowing, with something about Him that made you realize that His own heart was sad, though his smile was always bright and sweet.

As the hours passed Benjamin grew weaker and weaker and his pain more intense. Miriam tried not to see that the end was near, but her heart was almost breaking and she was glad when Jesus came that she could slip from the room and give way to her grief without disturbing the little sufferer. Coming back noiselessly she heard Jesus say :

“ I will tell you what happened the night nine years ago when I was born,” and then she heard as only one could tell it the story of the angels who sang. “ Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will ; and of the shepherds who went to the stable to adore the new-born Babe. Then resting His hand on Benjamin's heart as though in blessing, He said :

“ Good-bye, little friend, it is in return for your gift that I leave you my priceless one,” and left the cottage. Miriam's whole soul cried out, “ It is the Messiah ! ” and yet she tried to still its voice, for, Jew that she was, she looked for One who would rule “ my people Israel,” one who would free her countrymen from the hated Roman yoke.

Benjamin lay very still and smilingly shook his head when his mother asked if he suffered, but was evidently getting weaker, Just at sundown he looked up suddenly, his face radiant and holding out his arms exclaimed joyfully :

“ Oh, dear Jesus, hast Thou come for me? Glory be to God in the highest,” and fell back lifeless. And peace and faith entered his mother's heart at the moment.

“ *From The True Witness.*”