

heaven. A mighty angel was commissioned to bear the tidings to men. Cohorts of other angels accompanied the Gospel-angel as his companions or retinue. With eager haste they flew, passing by stars and systems, till they found the night-side of earth over Bethlehem. The light from their flashing wings startled the shepherds, who in that region, were keeping watch over their flock by night. Then occurred the grandest celestial manifestation earth has ever witnessed. In glorious splendour cherubic choirs filled the open space beneath the star-spangled canopy. They were a multitude of the heavenly host, and were bright with celestial grandeur. Were they a part of heaven's heraldry who had accompanied the Redeemer to earth? The foremost of those heavenly messengers proclaimed the most auspicious announcement human ear ever heard.

These seraphs rejoiced over the most astonishing event that had occurred since the world began. They had descended from their shining realm to attend the incarnation, and to mingle in the scene, at once the most humble and most august, that had ever attracted angels from the skies. They expressed their congratulations and praises in a song, the echoes of which will never die. A thrilling *solo* and a halleluiahs chorus were uttered by seraph voices. The singers came from before the throne. The air of Bethlehem was vocal with melodious strains that were brought from heaven, and that made earth resound with celestial harmony.

It was meet that such a stupendous event, as called forth that song, should be accompanied with demonstrations from the skies. How wonderful that omnipotence should slumber in an infant's arm! How strange that omniscience should sleep beneath an infant's brow! Well might angels sing:

*"Gloria in altissimis Deo, et in terra pax, hominibus bonæ voluntatis."*

Poetry, painting and imagination have essayed to portray the scene. Imaginative legends have clustered around the story of the nativity. The spurious Gospels of the early centuries relate how the cattle kneeled to worship the infant Jesus; how mysterious splendours blazed in the sky; how He spake with His first breath, and told His mother that He was the Son of God. There is a