

Christ which was in them did signify when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow. . . . Who verily was fore-ordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifested in these last times for you" (I Pet. i.)

From would be shepherds of Christ's flock and yet preachers of Pelagianism, and rejectors of the only point of unity between God and man in the Person of the God-Man, Christ Jesus,—no matter how influential may be their recommendations—from such may the Lord deliver us!

Turning from the oppositions of men against the pure gospel message of salvation through Christ alone, it is refreshing to remember its first open proclamation by God's mighty angels at the birth of our Saviour—"Peace on earth, good will to men"—or rather to men of good will. Yet, it is the will of God not to His holy angels but to men, the gospel of reconciliation between God and man is committed,—for, as an eloquent writer has well said.—"Knowing all our need, full of divine pity, knowing the remedy, yet the angels cannot give it. Not to the company so swift to bear the divine messages, so fervent in fulfilling the divine ministries of pity, not to the tender voice of the most pitiful among them, not to the trumpet tones of the arch-angels is the preaching of the gospel

committed, but to feeble human lips, and broken imperfect human utterance. . . . They cannot preach this divine message to us, but they listen when it is spoken; for in their presence we know there is joy whenever they see it penetrating palsied and feeble hearts, and filling the death-stricken with "this life." . . .

As warriors and victors the blessed angels are manifested to us, as angels of judgment, as well as "ministers of grace," fervent with indignation against wrong, as well as tender of pity for the wronged.

The Church Militant does not seem limited to this world, however sure the Church Militant is to become the Church Triumphant at last

And so we come back to the angels of the Christmas story,—to the one angel saying to the shepherds: "Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy which shall be to all people, for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord," to the multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men."

"All is unfolded there,—what the joy of heaven, the angel's world is, what the aspect of earth is to them; what Christ is to them, what they know Him to be to us.

The world they come from is a world of overflowing peace and joy, unselfish joy, delighting in the joy of others, a joy which being the joy