

Babe Jesus.

BY GEORGE MACDONALD.

Babe Jesus lay in Mary's lap;
The sun shone on his hair;
And this was how she saw,
The crown already there

For she sang Sleep, on, my little king,
Had Herod dares not come,
Before the sleeping, holy thing
The wild winds would be dumb

I kiss thy hands, I kiss thy feet,
My child so long desired
Thy hands shall never be soiled, my
sweet,
Thy feet shall never be tired.

For thou art the king of men, my son,
Thy crown I see it plain;
And men shall worship thee, every one,
And cry, Glory! Amen.

Babe Jesus opened his eyes so wide!
And Mary looked on her Lord,
And Mary stilled her song and sighed,
Babe Jesus said never a word.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON XIII.—DECEMBER 24.

CHRIST'S COMING FORETOLD.

Isa. 9. 2-7. Memory verses, 6, 7.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Unto you is born this day in the city
of David a Saviour, which is Christ the
Lord.—Luke 2. 11.

OUTLINE.

1. The Light of the World, v. 2-5.
2. The Son of God, v. 6.
3. The Kingdom of Peace, v. 7.

Time.—Probably between B.C. 760 and
700.

Place.—Jerusalem.

LESSON HELPS.

The prophecy of Isaiah is sometimes
called a fifth gospel, because of its re-
markable predictions concerning the com-
ing of the Messiah. The four gospels
are the best exposition of some of his
prophecies. His style is forceful and
poetic and rises into great sublimity.
The book is twofold in its matter, (1)
prophetic and (2) historical.

2. "The people that walked in dark-
ness"—Darkness is a figurative word for
affliction, as we now say, "My sorrow
was dark and heavy." The land suffered
much under the first Assyrian invasion,
especially the country around the Sea of
Galilee (verse 1), and it was this part of
the land which enjoyed the first preach-
ing of Christ, and where he wrought
many of his mighty miracles. Have
seen a great light—Prophetic of Christ,
who testified of himself, "I am the Light
of the world." The latter half of the
verse repeats the thought of the first half
in different words; a case of what is
called parallelism, which is frequent in
Hebrew poetry.

3. "Not increased the joy"—Some
manuscripts omit the word "not," and
make the thought just the opposite.
With the presence of the "great light"
comes added population. "Joy in har-
vest"—There is toil to gain a harvest,
there is uncertainty from drought
whether the harvest will follow the toil.
"When they divide the spoil"—After the
struggle of battle which ends in victory.

4. "The yoke of his burden"—Which
he bore, as the patient animal bears the
yoke. "The rod of his oppressor"—A
rod is the symbol of authority and also
an instrument to punish. As in the
day of Midian Judges 7. 22.

5. "This shall be with burning"—Ancient
nations were wont when victorious
to gather the armour of the slain and
of the captives and offer it in flames to
the god who was thought to be the giver
of victory. But this passage is also a
prophecy of peace, weapons of war shall
be destroyed.

6. A remarkable prophecy given cen-
turies before Christ came among men
"A child is born"—Christ was the Babe
of Bethlehem. "Unto us a Son is given"
—The Son of God, the Son of man.
"Behold my beloved Son, in whom I am
well pleased." "The government shall
be upon his shoulder"—The shoulder
bears the burden. It may mean that
which shows authority, the sceptre which
was carried on the shoulder; the sword
which hung suspended from it. Each of
the titles in this verse deserves study,
expressive of a marvellous nature, of wis-
dom, of power, of eternal duration, and
of prosperity, because "Prince of Peace."
The verse points to Jesus the Messiah.

7. "Of the increase of his government"



CHRISTMAS EVE.

—Christ's kingdom is (1) spiritual, (2)
growing, (3) enduring, and (4) just.
Jesus is the Son of David, and the suc-
cessor to a throne greater than that of
the warrior poet. May we be his willing
subjects.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Christ's coming foretold.—Isa. 9. 1-7.
- Tu. Prince of Peace.—Isa. 11. 1-10.
- W. The Lord our righteousness.—Jer. 23. 1-6.
- Th. Good tidings.—Isa. 40. 1-11.
- Fr. A blessed reign.—Psalm 72. 1-17.
- S. A prophet.—Acts 3. 18-26.
- Su. Testified beforehand.—1 Peter 1. 1-12.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

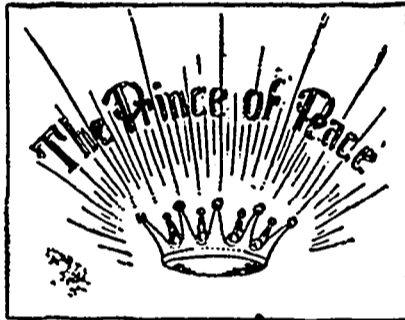
1. The Light of the World, v. 2-5.
What people saw a great light?
Upon whom had the light shined?
Who is the Light of the world? John 8. 12.
How far has this light shined? John 1. 9.
Of what increase without gain are we told?
What was the measure of joy?
What was the occasion of joy?
What features usually mark a battle?
How would this battle be won?
What is John's description of the leader? Rev. 19. 11-16.
2. The Son of God, v. 6.
Who first told of the birth of this Son? Luke 2. 10, 11.
In what city was he born? Luke 2. 4.
What does the prophet say of this Son as ruler?
By what names should he be known?

3. The Kingdom of Peace, v. 7.
Whose rule would this continue?
In what spirit would the kingdom be ruled?
Who would bring about this result?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson are we taught—
- 1. That Jesus is the Light of the world?
- 2. That Jesus is the Son of God?
- 3. That Jesus is the Prince of Peace?

Since the Prince of Peace is God's dear
gift to us, what shall we give to him?
This crown in the picture is to remind
us that Jesus is our Prince. At the



happy Christmas time does any one go
about to beat you and make you give
presents to people? Oh, no. Gifts are
for love's sake. We give because we
love to do it. When you go home please
go by yourself a few minutes and think
out what you really mean to give Jesus.



CHRISTMAS BELLS.

BY ANNA PIERVONT SIVITER.

Long, long ago in Bethlehem,
The children waked at morn,
And little dreamed that in the night
The dear Christ-child was born.

They did not know an angel choir
Above their heads had sung;
They did not hear the words of joy,
That through the skies had rung.

But all the little children
Who hear the church bells ring
To-night o'er all the land, shall know
The message that they bring.

And as the angels sang it,
So the children sing again;
Great glad be to God on high,
On earth good-will to men.

Methodist Magazine and Review for 1900

\$2.00 YEAR • \$1.00 SIX MONTHS

"Guardian" and "Magazine," or "Wes-
leyan," and "Magazine" together, \$2.75.
300 FINE ENGRAVINGS

**November and December
Numbers FREE to New
Subscribers**

"It is the best magazine for a
Christian family of which we have any
knowledge."

—Christian Uplook.

Illustrated Articles

Canada During the Victorian Era.—Serial
Papers, with Thirty-three Fine Illustrations
and Portrait Groups. SIR JOHN G.
BOURNE, K.C.M.G., LL.D., D.C.L., LL.D. (Laval).
A Hundred Years of Methodist Progress in
Canada. Editor.
England's Oldest Colony and its Modern Devel-
opment. REV. GEORGE J. BOND, D.A.
Canada-by-the-Sea. Editor.
Mines and Mining in Rossland.
Britain's Long Arm.—The Royal Navy.
Growth of Our Great North West.
Paris the Magnificent. PROF. KRAEMER.
Picturesque Spain. REV. DR. BLACKSTOCK.
With Peary in the Far North.
In Evangeline's Country.
The Sorrows of Armenia. REV. PRINCIPAL CAVEN
A Woman in Turkey. MRS. PROF. HAZLEY.
Pompeii, the City of the Dead. EDITOR.
Some Old-fashioned Towns.
England in Africa.
Behind Dikes and Dunes.
Highways and Byways of Travel.
In Manxland.

Serial and Short Stories

Twentieth Century Fund Stories.
Your Little Brother James.
Northland Stories. REV. DR. MACLEAN.
Money Masters and Men. A Story of Industrial
Peace.
The Bishop's Mistake.
The Parson's Free Lunch Counter. J. BENSON
HAMILTON.
By Way of the Underground Railway, etc.

Missionary Articles

MANY OF THEM ILLUSTRATED
Truth Stranger Than Fiction.
The Christless Nations. BISHOP THOMSON.
Missionary Heroes.—Felix Neff.
Transformation of Fiji.
Mission Progress in China.
Fisher Folk.
Woman's Work for Woman.

Popular Science Articles

MANY OF THEM ILLUSTRATED
Romance of Light. G. A. CHANT, B.A.
The New Astronomy. PROF. SIMON NEWCOMB.
Old Lake Margins. PROF. COLMAN.
The Sun as a Source of Energy. PROF. C. A.
YOUNG.
Gauging the Star Depths. MARY PROCTOR.
The Niagara Gorge as a Measure of Time.
A Century of Science.
Women in Science.
Worms and Their Work.
Whence Come the Comets. R. A. PROCTOR.
The Exploration of a Century.

Social and Religious Topics

The Theology of the Twentieth Century. BISHOP
HURST.
Madam Guyon. REV. PROF. WALLACE, D.D.
Sidelights on Methodism. REV. J. S. ROSS, D.D.
Methodism and Literature. PROF. WHITLOCK.
Hours With Our Hymn-Book. REV. DR. LAMBLY.
Social Progress of a Hundred Years.
Why I am a Methodist. PROF. RAYMOND.
Empire Building in Africa.—Rhodesia.
Absurdities of Christian Science.
Oxford Under Two Queens. WILLIAM MORLEY
PUNSHON.
Great Movements of the Century.
Christian Telepathy. JOHN WATSON, D.D.
Justice to the Jew.
Home Life in the Holy City.
Methodist Heroes a Hundred Years Ago.
Life in a Convent.
Pan-Methodism in 1900.

Character-Studies and Sketches

MANY OF THEM ILLUSTRATED
The Queen. MRS. OLIPHANT
H.B.H. the Princess of Wales.
Men of the Mayflower.
The Duchess of Gordon.
Frances Power Cobbe.
Bruno, the Martyr Monk.
Louis Kossuth.
A Methodist Countess.
Thrums, and its Author.
A Christ-Life in the Market-Place.
Lavengro.—Scholar, Gipsy and Priest.
A Life of Trust.—George Muller.
Torquato Tasso.—The Miseries of Genius.
Lord Shaftesbury.—A Study of Philanthropy.
Beethoven.—A Musical Study.
Louis Napoleon.—The Romance of History.
The Trials of an Inventor.—Error.
Pope Leo XIII., and His Times.
A Sturdy Scot.—Dr. Candlish.
Gavazzi, the Italian Reformer.
Cower and His Centennial.
A Moral Crusader.—John Brown.
The Quaker Post.—Whittier.
A Great Christian Scholar.—Dr. Moulton. W.
H. ADAMS.

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

29-33 Richmond Street West,
TORONTO.

C. W. COATES,
Montreal.

S. F. HUESTIS
Halifax.