

SCENES AT THE HOLY HOME.

How the child Jesus learned to talk ; and how he taught Saint Joseph to be silent.

One evening the Holy Family
Where gathered in the Egyptian Land,
At Cairo, a poor and fugitive band,
Yet richly blest in their poverty -
Jesus and Mary and Joseph - these three.
Then Joseph the Boy to speech beguiled :
" Say Mary, say Mary, dear child."
The Infant's voice was launched into the air.
And the name was spoken so soft and clear,
Speech never sounded in mother's ear
So musical and fair.
" Say Father, now," then Joseph prayed :
And " Abba. Abba, Abba," he said.
The title sprang from that velvety tongue,
So sweet and full of cheer,
The choirs of paradise checked their song,
And leaned on their harps to hear.
The voice was distant ; yet not a throat
In all their throngs could sound a note,
To make the distant seem so near.

'Then a silence dropped on the Patriarch' soul ;
It lasted long,
Like the silence that follows a sweet song,
Which has filled the spirit full,
And every sense beguiled.
The Boy-God looked up at his Mother and smiled,
And whispered : " This silence will not end ;
' Tis my gift to a beloved Friend."

Now, the life of Joseph has been recorded,
And justice full to his loved awarded ;
Yet not one word from his mouth is penned.
The sacred record shows thus always,
To reader, or hearer,
That silent duty is counted dearer
Than the loud tongue of praise.

- Selected.