

SUNDAY SCHOOL BARRER

for

TEACHERS

AND

YOUNG PEOPLE.

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Emmanuel.

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"They shall call his name Emmanuel, which, being interpreted, is, God with us.—Matt. 1: 23.

UPON Judea's storied plains

The shepherds watched their flock by night,

When suddenly their eyes beheld

The shining of a wondrous light ;

Upon their ravished ears, sweet strains

Of music from heaven's anthem fell,

As the glad angels sang the birth

Of Jesus, called Emmanuel—

God with us ; King Emmanuel.

"The Prince of David's royal line

Is born this night in David's town,

Glory to God, peace on the earth,

And good-will to mankind comes down."

The awe-struck shepherds speed away,

While yet sweet strains of Gloria fell,

To find, and with glad hearts adore,

Jesus, the child, Emmanuel—

God with us ; King Emmanuel.

If our dim eyes were clear to see

The shining of the Advent story,

And our dull ears attend to hear

The chanting of the Advent story,

Then we would hasten to His feet

Whose birth the herald angels tell,

And with love-laden lips would sing,

Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel—

God with us ; King Emmanuel.

The Star of Bethlehem.

THIS old sobbing world of ours is one year older than it was when the last Christmas carol was chanted. It has had another twelvemonth of experiments and of experience—of advancement on many lines of human research and

acquisition. But it has not out-grown Jesus Christ. For Him it has discovered no substitute. The Star of Bethlehem is the only star that never sets. Jesus Christ alone can satisfy all human necessities and the loftiest of human inspirations. Christianity is the only universal religion, the only one adapted to all ages of life, to all human conditions, to all races and all nationalities. Other lights have arisen, waned and vanished forever. The Greek mythology is as utterly shaken to ruin as its own splendid Parthenon. The chief religions of Asia, Brahmanical, Buddhist or Moslem, are all limited and local ; they are all moribund ; while they make no inroads on Christianity, the religion of Bethlehem and Calvary makes constant inroads upon them. The systems of error which Paul and Peter fought have vanished out of sight, and the whole East is catching glimpses of the Star which first dawned over Judea's sky. In spiritual dynamics blood tells ; and God has trusted his gospel of salvation to the most powerful races on the globe.

To the brightness of Bethlehem's Star all the nations of the earth shall be attracted. The rulers of the darkness of this world must prepare to abdicate for Jesus Christ. He who bore this world's cross will by and by wear its crown ; and this nineteenth century, shod with the sandals of foreign missions, is one of the forerunners of the King. Every system of error, every delusion of skepticism, shall yet pale and vanish out of sight before the gospel of atoning love which restores fallen man to a forgiving God. The songs which filled that first Christmas night shall yet be heard, with richer harmonies, over a whole ransomed world. The skeptics who stubbornly shut their eyes to the light in this life will be compelled to witness the blazing splendors of Him who sitteth upon His throne and receives the homage of the myriads whom He has brought home to glory ! The world's six days of turmoil and toil and travail shall end in a Sabbath of eternal rest and praise.—T. L. Cuyler, D.D., in *Independent*.