

MARRIAGE

the forerunners of joy and thanksgiving for a child born into the world.

Let us now consider this Christian pair in their new-found relation to home and family. While the husband, in prayerful solicitation for the safety of his beloved wife, waited upon God, she went down to the waters of death, even to the shore of eternity, under Divine preservation, and brought back on her bosom a new-born soul, wrapped up in part of their own persons. As they look upon the little one, they see in it a real personal increase of their united beings. They have come through all the progressive way that leads from the first thrill of love for one another to the thrilling experience of an affection that centres in a third person with a new revelation of the parental love of God.

What has all past happiness been to them compared with this? Here is the first-fruit of all the earlier sowing in the garden of young love's culture. Oh, the "riches of God in Christ Jesus" that these Christian parents may see unfolded for them in that tiny bit of humanity. As the goodly tree, laden with fragrant blossoms and golden fruit, lies enfolded in the little brown seed, which may be tossed about by baby fingers, so there lies, in the little one sleeping on its mother's breast, the possibility of a life fruitful to the glory of God on earth, and in heaven a being higher than the angels, sharing the honor and worship of Him before whom "angels veil their faces," and "cherubim and