

- L was a pauper begging his bread.  
Luke, xvi. 20, 21.
- M was an idol, an object of dread.  
Leviticus, xxi. 2, 3.
- N was an Architect ages ago.  
Genesis, vi. 13, 23.
- O was a rampart to keep out the foe. 2. Chronicles, xxvii. 3.
- P was an isle, whence a saint looked above. Revelation, i. 9.
- Q was a Christian sainted in love.  
Romans, xvi. 23.
- R was obscure, yet a Mother of Kings. Matthew, i. 5.
- S was a Danite, who did wonderful things. Judges, xiv. 5. 6.
- T was a city that had a stronghold.  
2. Samuel, xxiv. 7.
- U was a Country productive of gold. Jeremiah, x. 9.
- V was a Queen whom a king set aside. Esther, i. 10, 22.
- Z was a place where a man wished to hide. Genesis, xix. 22.
- Read 2. Timothy, iii. 15.

### ADVENT.

The Season of Advent again is here. What does it mean? Advent, no doubt you have often heard explained, means "coming." It was 1883 years ago that the Jews were expecting their Messiah to come, and He came. But very few of them knew where to find Him. To a few poor shepherds only, keeping their nightly watch over their flocks on the plains of Bethlehem, was the great mystery first revealed. Bethlehem had already been the scene of many interesting events. Rachel was buried there; Ruth went out in the fields to glean there; David's home was at Bethlehem; he tended his father's flocks there, and from there went forth to fight the giant Goliath.

But now the most wonderful event that ever happened in the world's history took place at Bethlehem; for Jesus was born there. And when the shepherds made haste to see the wonderful Child they found Him wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. How touching is the picture given of the Holy Family by S. Luke! Painters have often represented the Virgin and Child seated on a throne, clothed in rich dresses. But far more beautiful in its simplicity is the reality. Whether amid the rude surroundings of the inn at Bethlehem, or in the quiet home-life, with Joseph the carpenter and Mary the sweet Virgin Mother at Nazareth. There in the seclusion of a humble village, Jesus lived out His childhood with His parents, obedient to them, and following the ways of other children, but yet preparing Himself for the great work awaiting Him; for even beside the cradle we are reminded of the shadow of the Cross.

Why then are we so joyful at this blessed festival of Christmas? Why do we decorate our Churches with the words Emmanuel, God with us, and sing our loudest songs of praise? It is because the Son of God has come to earth and dwells in our Churches, in our homes, in our hearts. Look at a loving gentle girl, obedient and unselfish in her daily life; or see a brave boy on a sick bed patiently bearing all his pain because God has sent it. Well, Jesus, Emmanuel, is with these little ones. O may He dwell more and more with us! May He purify our thoughts, soften our tempers, and sanctify all our daily life, so that the sacred word Emmanuel may be so written up in