

# SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER

for  
TEACHERS  
AND  
YOUNG PEOPLE.

VOL. XXXI.]

DECEMBER, 1897.

No. 12.

## Christmas Carol.

On a winter night in the olden time,  
When the weary world was sunk in sin,  
And darkness reigned, and the earth was full  
Of war and tumult and hopeless din,  
A mes-enger came from the world above  
To bring the glad tidings of boundless love.

He was welcomed not by the rich and great;  
No trumpet proclaimed his birth;  
In a lowly manger lay  
Of heaven and Lord of earth—  
The mes-enger sent from the world above  
To bring the glad tidings of boundless love.

A star shone out in the Eastern sky,  
To mark the spot to a chosen few  
Where the holy infant lay, who came  
To light the benighted world anew—  
The messenger sent from the world above  
To bring the glad tidings of boundless love.

The light still shines with ceaseless ray  
Over every land and every sea,  
Through storm and tempest and trouble and strife.  
For "I am the light of the world," said he—  
The messenger sent from the world above  
To bring the glad tidings of boundless love.

The light still shines through the clouds of sin,  
And always points to a better way,  
Where rest and peace and joy are found,  
For these are the gifts of his natal day—  
The messenger sent from the world above  
To bring the glad tidings of boundless love.

## The Peace of God.

The salutation of the Orient is, "Peace Be Unto You," and the response is, "To You Also Be Peace." This was the song of the angels at Bethlehem, and this was the benediction of our Lord in

his intercessory prayer and at his first interview with them after the resurrection. It is the initial blessing of the Christian life, and what a benediction it is! The Peace of God ever brooding over the soul and pervading the whole being! The soul was once storm-tossed and tempest-driven, agitated by doubts and fears, and stirred to its lowest depths by gusts of passion and temptation. It was shaken to its centre with fearful questionings, the fountains of the great deep of the heart were broken up, the storm of the wrath of God was bursting upon it, and all his waves and billows went over the head. Then the cry of penitence and utter faith burst forth. Instantly a mighty miracle was wrought. Christ spoke the mystic words, "Peace, be still," and immediately there was a great calm. Every warring passion was lulled to rest, and a halcyon peace reigned in the soul. For the current of the entire being was reversed, the polarity of the soul was changed. God became the centre of the thoughts, to whom they ever turned instinctively as the needle to the north. And having in God the unchanging good, the spirit sought no other good below.

Says St. Augustine, in one of his beautiful meditations, "O God, thou madest man for thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find repose in thee;" and the Saviour himself says, "In the world ye shall have tribulation, but in me ye shall have peace." And this peace is one which the world cannot give nor take away, a peace that passeth all understanding, that keepeth the heart and the mind, the affections and the intellect, with the power of an everlasting life.—The Editor.

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