

The Dimpled Hand

The breath of Caesar fanned the flames of war,
And by the sword he hoped all lands to win;
He pressed his conquests eagerly afar,
By force of arms, and battle's deadly din;
But when his soldiers, long to slaughter steeled,
To wars afresh he gladly would release,
Some humble shepherds, in the open field,
Heard angels sing their songs of joy and peace.

'Twas in the night angelic tunes rang out—
A starlight night which crowned the dying day;
And those good shepherds, from the plains about,
Unto "The Prince of Peace" soon found their way.
Whate'er had been their worries of the past,
In that glad hour all sorrows were beguiled;
The joy of joys was truly their's at last,
As they beheld, that night, the Holy Child.

For fullest sway, in near and distant climes,
Two keen contenders then were on the earth;
The one, the noted Caesar of his times,
And One, the new-born Babe of lowly birth.
Who shall succeed and gain his foremost quest?
Whom shall the nations favor of the twain,
The man, with blood-thirst surging in his breast
Or, the young Child, who wills in love to reign?

The fame of world-allegiance to his throne
Is what the Roman ruler seeks to gain;
The wish for nations all His love to own,
In germ, is lying in the Infant's brain.
Shall all the world give heed to Caesar's call,
Till he has welcome rule o'er sea and land?
Or, shall the "New-born's" love appeal to all,
Till world-wide reign shall greet the dimpled Hand?

The centuries of yore have gone their way,
As dynasties have vanished from our sight;
The haughty Caesar, long has lost his sway!
The Babe still reigns, to Mary born that night!
In fondly yielded hearts He lives to-day
O'er all the world, to earth's remotest strand,
And grateful subjects gladly own the sway,
Not of the sword, but of the dimpled Hand.

Christmas MCMXXXVII.

—MACK

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