

**WHEN THE CHRIST CHILD CAME.**

By Laura Spencer Portor.

While ye twine these garlands and dance and sing,  
Oh, forget not the little Lord's wandering;  
Let the mistletoe branching with berries white,  
Remember the snow of that blessed night;  
And the holly so red—like warming flame,  
Recall us the night that the Christ Child came.

So little a child He was to come  
To a world of strife, from a heavenly home;  
Yet He chose to leave his heavenly games,  
And the angels of silver-sounding names,  
That the world might be blessed; and that  
you and I  
Might love each other more heartily.

Now Raphael begged Him to wait, you see;  
And Sandalphon had said, "Nay bide with me!"  
And Israfel took up his lute to play  
And said, "Lo! here is eternal day—  
Why seek you the night? Go not away!"  
And Azrael warned Him,—oh, grave and sweet—

Of thorns for His head and wounds for His feet,  
Then they sang in chorus and danced in measure,  
To Israfel's lute, to give Him pleasure.  
But e'en while their gleaming footsteps shone,  
He slipped away from their dance and was gone.

He stood on earth and looked around;  
But He heard no music, nor heavenly sound  
Of lute or dance on the frozen ground.  
Only a savage watchdog's bark  
And an infant crying across the dark,  
And a rabbit half numb, that limped, as though

It were well-nigh spent, across the snow.  
And an azola, poor frozen thing—  
A little brown owl with a wounded wing.  
The rabbit and owl, He held them warm  
'Gainst His beating heart, in the bend of His arm.

He patted the dog with a loving hand,  
In a way that watchdogs understand.  
Then the Little Lord left it the rabbit to fend  
From harm and cold, and the owl for friend.  
And the three of them pondered the whole night through  
On what had happened, as animals do—  
And the little brown owl said frequently,  
"Whoo-oo?"

Then the Little Lord sought out the infant who wept,  
And hushed it and sang it a song till it slept.  
Then on once more the Little Lord went,  
On love and pity and healing bent.  
But the way was long, as Azrael had said,  
And He often tripped and fell.  
But He took no note of these things at all,  
Nor missed He His heavenly games and ball.

Nor the angels dancing in coronal,  
And wherever He went, there more and more  
Such comfort came as was never before—  
For, wherever He passed, began to glow  
Warming fires, and glad desires,  
And kindness, and comfort and charity;  
—'Twas a loving and wonderful thing to see;

And His pity, it lighted a Christmas tree;  
And His love was a thing to warm you so,  
You took no heed of the frost and snow.  
And it lighted a fire on every hearth;  
In old and young it enkindled mirth;  
His love and pity hung gifts for all,  
In hovel and hut and in castle hall.  
There were choirs of singing and loving glance,  
There were bells a-ringing and braided dance,  
And they kept that night like a thing more blest,  
More festive and kindly than all the rest.

But the angels above, they leaned to look  
To discern if they might the way He took.  
And they sang in chorus to guide Him back  
By golden song, lest He miss the track  
Of stars to lead Him. "Oh, Light of the World!"  
Beyond where the little cold moon lies curled,  
We wait your coming! We miss your face!

Till heaven itself is a lonely place.  
Come back, and with lovelier dance and song  
We will please you the golden day, heaven-long.

So the angels sang, as they leaned to learn,  
O'er the ramparts of heaven, of His return.  
'Twas Azrael only who knew the thing  
That must come to pass; and he did not sing.  
For 'twas only he who knew death's sting,  
And the woe of the earth, and its sorrowing.

For 'twas only he across heaven's track  
Might ever go to guide Him back.  
And this was the knowledge that lay along  
The fute of his voice and stopped its song.  
'Twas the thought of this which upon the fute  
Of his heart lay trembling, and made it mute.

But even as he stood, it seemed he heard  
His loved little Master's spoken word  
Come winging, singing, "O Azrael!  
'Tis well that I came to the earth, 'tis well;  
Be glad, O Azrael, glad indeed,  
That I came to a world in such sore need!"  
Then Azrael folded his wings. No word  
He spake of the mystical thing he had heard;

But when the rest wondered and waited in vain  
For their loved little Lord to come again,  
And questioned, then answered them  
Azrael:  
"Peace, Brothers! On Earth is Peace!  
'Tis well!"

Oh, sometimes, I rest me and sleep and dream  
Of a heavenly place by a heavenly stream,  
Where angels dance by a Living River  
Of sapphire waters that gleam and quiver,  
'Neath jeweled branches drooping forever;  
White-footed angels treading a measure  
Of delicate music to infinite leisure;  
Gentle and bending, returning, complying,  
Like winds of the morning in meadows unlying.

And I dream not less, of a Heavenly Child,  
Whose ways are gentle, whose eyes are mild;

Who left such beauty that you and I  
Might love each other more heartily.  
While ye twine these garlands and dance  
and sing,  
Oh, forget not the Little Lord's wander-  
ing;  
Let the mistletoe branching with berries  
white,  
Remember the snow of that blessed night;  
And the holly so red—like the warming  
flame—  
Recall us the night that the Christ Child  
came.

**An Old Joke.**

I never believed in platonic friend-  
ship. I've heard a lot about it, but I  
claim it's a joke!  
But one summer I met a pretty  
girl who believed in it. She told me  
that our friendship would have to be  
platonic or nothing. She said we  
could be good chums, and not spoil it  
all by becoming sentimental. I didn't  
want to get married, so I readily  
agreed. As we both then knew that  
it would be perfectly safe, we started  
in at once with moonlight and so  
forth.

That was ten years ago. Today we  
have seven fine children, and my wife  
is very busy. So am I. Any woman  
who has ever had to take care of sev-  
en fine children knows how busy my  
wife is, and any man who has ever  
had to provide for that number knows  
how busy I am.

I never believed in platonic friend-  
ship. I've heard a lot about it, but I  
claim it's a joke!—William Sanford in  
Judge.

**Antiquated Uncle Eb.**

Representative Frear was praising  
standardization.

"The opponents of standardization,"  
he said, "are like old Uncle Eb.

"Uncle Eb was whitewashing his  
barn one morning with a brush that  
contained very few bristles. The  
squire happened along and said:

"Uncle Eb, why don't you get a  
brush with more bristles in it?"

"What for, squire?" asked the old  
man.

"What for?" shouted the squire.  
'Why, man, if you had a brush with  
more bristles in it you could do twice  
as much work.'

"Mebbe so, squire; mebbe so," said  
Uncle Eb; "only, ye see, I ain't got  
twice as much work to do."—Wash-  
ington Star.

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A course in Gude's Pepto-Mangan  
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Pepto-Mangan is put up in liquid and  
in tablet form. They are the same  
medicinally. Physicians have pre-  
scribed Gude's Pepto-Mangan for  
years. The name "Gude's Pepto-  
Mangan" is on the package.—Adv.  
66-50

**Pennsylvania Heads the List of Nine  
States in Hunting Accidents.**

Reports of hunting fatalities gath-  
ered by the United Press from nine  
States are as follows: Pennsylvania  
35 killed, 75 wounded; Lower Michi-  
gan and Wisconsin 24 killed, 100  
wounded; Ohio 18 killed, 38 wounded;  
Indiana 12 killed; Colorado 6, Minne-  
sota 5, Illinois 3 killed, 5 wounded;  
New York 19 killed, including one  
caused by target practice, 52 injured.

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| <p>Sheepskin Vests, moleskin cover-<br/>ing or felt outside—\$2.95 and \$3.45.</p>  | <p>Men's Flannel Shirts in all the<br/>wanted colors and styles, from the me-<br/>dium weight gray to the heavy army<br/>style—\$1.45 to \$3.95.</p>           |
| <p>Men's Heavy Corduroy Coats, made<br/>of a fine grade cord with a wind-proof<br/>lining, large collar, double breasted<br/>style—\$5.95.</p>                                | <p>Men's Work Shirts in blue cham-<br/>bray, polka dots, black sateen, khaki<br/>or black and white styles—95c.</p>  |
| <p>Men's Work Trousers made of all<br/>the wanted materials; well made—<br/>\$1.45, \$1.95, \$2.45.</p>   | <p>Men's Dress Shirts in all the new<br/>patterns; a large assortment to choose<br/>from, sizes 14 to 17—95c to \$2.95.</p>                                    |
| <p>Men's Corduroy Pants made of the<br/>best grade cord obtainable, very low<br/>priced at—\$2.45, \$2.95, \$3.95.</p>  | <p>Men's Overalls and Blouses made of<br/>heavy denims, full cut, most of them<br/>triple stitched; all sizes up to 50—<br/>95c, \$1.45, \$1.75.</p>           |
| <p>Men's Extra Heavy Pants made of<br/>part wool and of all wool materials.<br/>Guaranteed wear—\$1.95, \$2.95, \$3.95,<br/>\$4.95.</p>                                       | <p>Boys' Knickerbockers of serge, cor-<br/>duroy or cashmere; sizes up to 18.<br/>Many patterns to choose from—95c,<br/>\$1.45, \$1.75.</p>                    |
| <p>Men's Fine Dress Pants made of<br/>worsted, cashmere, serges; well<br/>made. Low priced at—\$2.95, \$3.45,<br/>\$3.95, \$4.45, \$4.95.</p>                                 | <p>Men's and Boys' Underwear, a com-<br/>plete line of union suits or 2 piece, in<br/>wool or fleeces, or ribbed, at very low<br/>prices. See our display.</p> |
| <p>Boys' Suits, a wonderful line and<br/>selections to choose from. You save<br/>nearly half at our price—\$4.95, \$5.95,<br/>\$6.95, \$7.95, \$8.95, \$9.95.</p>             | <p>Men's and Boys' Sweaters, V neck<br/>or crew style, made in all the durable<br/>shades from the cotton to the all wool<br/>materials—98c to \$5.98.</p>     |
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