



A CHRISTMAS VISIT

'Twas some days after Christmas, the *first* Christmas, you see,
Not a present was present, nor even a tree;
Mary and Joseph had at last found some room,
To shelter the Christ Child from danger and doom;

Baby Jesus was nestled all snug in His bed,
But no visions of sugar-plums danced in *His* Head;
His dream was of nails, sharp thorns, and a Cross,
To Him these were treasures; and riches mere dross,

Such a strange dream, and not very nice!
But with just such coin He would pay the steep price
Of sin that shrouds Man in the shadow of death;
With these, and His Blood, and His very last Breath!

'Twas a Love that is purer and whiter than snow
That moved Him to do this for us here below,
As a Babe, God the Son to us would appear,
That, to look upon God, we should never need fear.

As Joseph prepared to recline on the floor,
A terrible clatter he heard at the door.
Arising with haste, to the door he now flew,
While Mary to the side of her Baby withdrew.

What greeted Joseph's wondering sight,
But three strangers shivering in the bleak night.
Dressed in fine raiment from their heads to their feet,
'Neath caked-on layers of snow and sleet.

"I'm *Kaspar*"; "I'm *Melchior*"; "I'm *Balthasar*;
We have come hence by the light of the Star
That appeared in the East and brought us the news
Of the Desired of nations, the King of the Jews!

"We come bearing gifts for the King of all Kings,
We bring *gold*, which is the most kingly of things.
Frankincense we bring for the Child Divine,
And for His great Sacrifice, *myrrh* is a sign.

"The Star has led us to this very dwelling
We wish to see Him of the Prophets' foretelling;
The Messiah Who comes to save Man from all sin,
Please, kind sir, ...may we come in?"

Joseph stared at the bearers of such a strange word,
Stranger than any most men ever heard;
And bade the strangers to enter the house,
And went to fetch his Immaculate Spouse.

Mary came forth now, bearing her Child,
Ark *and* Covenant, both undefiled;
Falling on their faces, the strangers adored
Their King, their God, their Almighty Lord.

They presented their gifts, one after the other,
Having "*found the Child with Mary His Mother*"*;
And hearing great mysteries by her sweet voice,
They returned to their homes, and did much rejoice.

"*Wise men still seek Him*", 'tis said and 'tis true,
But those who are *most* wise will find here a clue,
A lesson surpassing by far any other,
Wise men still *find* Him, "*with Mary His Mother*"!

Jesus grew to accomplish His heroic plan,
The Son of God saving the sons of Man;
That's why we exclaim to all, far and near,
"*Happy Christmas to all, and a blessed New Year.*"

*And entering into the house, **they found the child with Mary his mother**, and falling down they adored him; and opening their treasures, they offered him gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh. --*Matthew 2:11; Douay-Rheims translation*