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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK CHRISTMAS SUNSHINE ***





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O the angels know the blessed day,
And strike their harps anew?
Then may the echo of their lay



Float sweetly down to you,
And fill your soul with Christmas song
That your heart shall echo your whole
life long.

Havergal.



A bright and happy
Christmas to you! Lift
up yourselves to the
great meaning of the
day, and dare to think
of your humanity as
something so sublimely
precious that it is
worthy of being made
an offering to God, and
then go out to the
pleasures and duties of
your life, having been
truly born anew into
His Divinity, as He was
born into our humanity
on Christmas Day.

Phillips Brooks.

Most tangible of all the gods that be,
O Santa Claus—our own since infancy!

—

As first we scampered to thee—now, as
then,
Take us as children to thy heart again.

Riley.

HEN welcome
snow of
Christmas,
We read thy
prophecy,
We know what
wish lies hidden,
What germs of
life may be
Concealed beneath

thy mantle,
All folded close
away,
Awaiting their
fruition,
In heaven's
eternal day.



M. C. O.

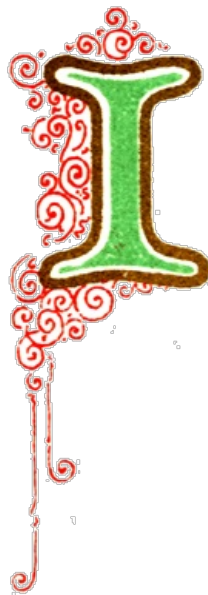


One wish ere yet
the long year
ends;

Let's close it with a parting rhyme,
A pledge, a hand, to all our friends
As fits the merry Christmas time:
On life's wide scene you, too, have
parts,

That Fate ere long shall bid you play;
Good-night: with honest, gentle hearts,
A kindly greeting go away.

Thackeray.



It was the winter wild,
While the heaven-born child
All meanly wrapt in the rude manger
lies:
Nature, in awe to him
Had doff'd her gaudy trim,
With her great Master so to
sympathize:
It was no season then for her
To wanton with the sun, her lusty
paramour.

Only with speeches fair
She woos the gentle air
To hide her guilty front with innocent
snow:

And on her naked shame,
Pollute with sinful blame,
The saintly veil of maiden white to throw;
Confounded, that her Maker's eyes
Should look so near upon her foul deformities.

But he, her fears to cease,
Sent down the meek-ey'd Peace;
She, crowned with olives green, came softly
sliding

Down through the turning sphere
His ready harbinger,
 With turtle wing the amorous clouds dividing;
And, waving wide her myrtle wand,
She strikes a universal peace through sea and
land.

No war or battle's sound,
Was heard the world around;
 The idle spear and shield were high up hung,
The hooked chariot stood,
Unstained with hostile blood;
 The trumpet spake not to the armed throng;
And kings sat still with awful eye,
As if they surely knew their sovran Lord was by.

But peaceful was the night,
Wherein the Prince of light
 His reign of Peace upon the earth began:
The winds with wonder whist
Smoothly the waters kist,
 Whispering new joys to the mild ocean,
Who now hath quite forgot to rave,
While birds of calm sit brooding on the charmed
wave.

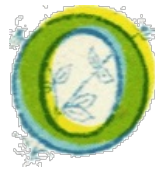
Milton.



SOME say that ever 'gainst that season comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
The bird of dawning singeth all night long;
And then, they say, no spirit dare stir abroad,
The nights are wholesome, then no planets
strike,

No fairy takes nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallow'd and so gracious is the time.

Shakespeare.



HOLY Child of Bethlehem!

Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter
in,

Be born in us to-day.

We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Phillips Brooks.

Swell the notes of the Christmas Song!
Sound it forth through the earth
abroad!
Blessing and honor, thanks and laud!
Take the joy of the Christmas Song!
Are not the tidings good and true?

Peace to you,
And God's good will that is ever new.

Havergal.



YOU little children, in whose eyes
Undimmed the light of heaven
glows,
Whose dreams are bright with paradise,
Whose souls are whiter than the
snows,
From holy lips and undefiled,
Breathe your soft prayer to Christ, the
Child!

And you whose thinning locks are sprent
With unreturning autumn's rime,
Whose heads, like wind-worn trees, are bent
Beneath the savage storms of time—
Pray Christ, the Child, to be your guide
Past the dim shoal, where shadows bide.

O saving hands! O Christ, that hears
A mortal mother's lullabies;
That feels our agony and tears,
Whose bosom trembles with our sighs,
Give us pure hearts and undefiled,
Make us like thee, O Christ, the Child!

Unknown.



ARK! how all the welkin rings,
Glory to the King of kings!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinner reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
Universal nature say,
Christ the Lord is born to-day.

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb;
Veil'd in flesh and Godhead see;
Hail, th' Incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men t' appear,
Jesus, our Immanuel here!

Hail! the heavenly Prince of Peace!
Hail! the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Charles Wesley.



OD rest ye, merry gentlemen; let
nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ, our Saviour, was born
on Christmas-day.
The dawn rose red o'er Bethlehem,
the stars shone through the gray,
When Jesus Christ, our Saviour, was born
on Christmas-day.

God rest ye, little children; let nothing you
affright,
For Jesus Christ, your Saviour, was born this
happy night:
Along the hills of Galilee the white flocks sleeping
lay,
When Christ, the Child of Nazareth, was born on
Christmas-day.

God rest ye, all good Christians; upon this blessed
morn
The Lord of all good Christians was of a woman
born:
Now all your sorrows He doth heal, your sins He
takes away;
For Jesus Christ, our Saviour, was born on
Christmas-day.

Dinah Maria Mulock.



HERE are many things from which I might
have derived good, by which I have not
profited, I dare say, Christmas among the
rest. But I am sure I have always thought
of Christmas time, when it has come
round—apart from the
veneration due to its
sacred name and
origin, if anything
belonging to it can be
apart from that—as a
good time; a kind,
forgiving, charitable,
pleasant time; the
only time I know of, in
the long calendar of
the year, when men
and women seem by
one consent to open
their shut-up hearts
freely, and to think of
people below them as
if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave,
and not another race of creatures bound on other
journeys. And therefore, though it has never put a
scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it

*has done me good, and will do me good; and I say,
God bless it!*

***From "A Christmas Carol."
Charles Dickens.***



ARK, the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song!

He comes, the prisoners to release
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.


He comes, the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasure of His grace
T' enrich the humble poor.

Our glad Hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With thy beloved name.

Philip Doddridge.


Christ is come to be my
Friend,
Leading, loving to the end;
Christ is come to be my
King,
Ordering, ruling
everything.
Christ is come! Enough for
me,
Lonely though the
pathway be.

F. R. Havergal.

 **U** who have scorn'd each other
Or injured friend or brother,
In this fast fading year;
Ye who, by word or deed,
Hath made a kind heart bleed,
Come gather here.
Let sinn'd against and sinning,
Forget their strife's beginning;
Be links no longer broken,
Be sweet forgiveness spoken,
Under the holly bough.

Ye who have lov'd each other,
Sister and friend and brother,
In this fast fading year:
Mother, and sire, and child,
Young man and maiden mild,
Come gather here;
And let your hearts grow fonder,
As memory shall ponder
Each past unbroken vow.
Old loves and younger wooing,
Are sweet in the renewing,
Under the holly bough.

Ye who have nourished sadness,
Estranged from hope and gladness,
In this fast fading year.
Ye with o'er-burdened mind
Made aliens from your kind,
Come gather here.

 **L**ET not the useless sorrow
Pursue you night and morrow,
If e'er you hoped—hope now—
Take heart: uncloud your faces,
And join in our embraces
Under the holly bough.

Charles Mackay, LL. D.



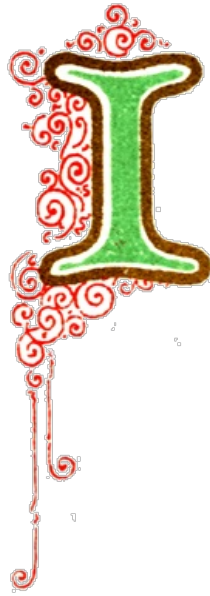
COME all you weary wanderers
Beneath the wintry sky,
This day forget your worldly cares,
And lay your sorrows by:
Awake and sing
The church bells ring,
For this is Christmas morning!

With grateful hearts salute the
morn,
And swell the streams of song,
That laden with great joy are
borne,
The willing air along;
The tidings thrill
With right good will,
For this is Christmas morning!

We'll twine the fresh green holly wreath,
And make the yule-log glow;
And gather gaily underneath
The winking mistletoe;
All blythe and bright
By the glad fire light,
For this is Christmas morning!

Come, sing the carols old and true,
That mind us of good cheer,
And like a heavenly fall of dew,
Revive the drooping year,
And fill us up
A wassail cup,

For this is Christmas morning!



IN the rush of the merry morning
When the red burns through the
gray,
And the wintry world lies waiting
For the glory of the day;
Then we hear a fitful rushing
Just without upon the stair,
See two white phantoms coming,
Catch the gleam of sunny hair.

Are they Christmas fairies stealing
Rows of little socks to fill?
Are they angels floating hither
With their message of good-will?
What sweet spell are these elves
weaving,
As like larks they chirp and sing?
Are these palms of peace from heaven
That these lovely spirits bring?

Rosy feet upon the threshold,
Eager faces peeping through,
With the first red ray of sunshine,
Chanting cherubs come in view;
Mistletoe and gleaming holly,
Symbols of a blessed day,
In their chubby hands they carry,
Streaming all along the way.

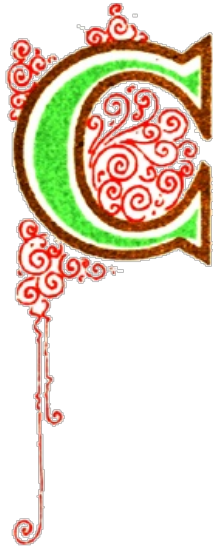


WELL we know them, never
weary
Of their innocent surprise:
Waiting, watching, listening

always

With full hearts and tender eyes,
While our little household angels,
White and golden in the sun,
Greet us with the sweet old welcome,—
"Merry Christmas, every one!"

Unknown.



CHRISTMAS is here;
Winds whistle shrill,
Icy and chill,
Little care we;
Little we fear
Weather without,
Sheltered about
The mahogany tree.

Once on the boughs
Birds of rare plume
Sang in its bloom;
Night-birds are we;
Here we carouse,
Singing, like them,
Perched round the stem
Of the jolly old tree.

Here let us sport,
Boys, as we sit;
Laughter and wit
Flashing so free.
Life is but short—
When we are gone,
Let them sing on,
Round the old tree.



EVENINGS we
knew,
Happy as this;
Faces we miss,
Pleasant to see.
Kind hearts and true,
Gentle and just,
Peace to your dust
We sing round the tree.



Care, like a dun,
Lurks at the gate:
Let the dog wait;



Happy we'll be!
Drink, every one;
Pile up the coals,
Fill the red bowls,
Round the old tree!

Drain we the cup,—
Friend, art afraid?
Spirits are laid
In the Red Sea.
Mantle it up;
Empty it yet;
Let us forget,
Round the old tree.



Sorrows, begone!
Life and its ills,
Duns and their bills,
Bid me to flee.
Come with the dawn,
Blue-devil sprite,
Leave us to-night,
Round the old tree.

W. M. Thackeray.



NEATH Mistletoe, should chance arise,
You may be happy if you're wise!
Though bored you lie with Pantomime
And Christmas fare and Christmas
rhyme—
One fine old custom don't despise.

If you're a man of enterprise
You'll find, I venture to surmise,
Tis pleasant then at Christmas-time
'Neath Mistletoe!

You see they scarcely can disguise
The sparkle of their pretty eyes;
And no one thinks it is a crime,
When goes the merry Christmas chime,
A rare old rite to exercise

'Neath Mistletoe!

J. Ashby Sterry.



IST and cloud and
darkness
Veil the wintry hour,
But the sun dispels them
With his rising power.

Mist and cloud and
darkness
Often dim thy day
But a Christmas glory
Shines upon thy way.

May the Lord of Christmas,
Counsellor and Friend,
Light thy desert pathway
Even to the end.

F. R. Havergal.

Transcriber's Note

All spellings have been
retained as in the original
text.

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