



MOTHER AND SON.

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BY ANNIE M. CUMMINGS

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And his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

Luke ii. 51.

PS 1474
Q 48

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WHEN on the first glad Christmas morning
Mary's new-born babe was laid
In his Bethlehem manger-cradle,
As the Holy Book hath said;
When they brought the angel's tidings,
"Peace on earth, good-will toward men,"
Did she see the Christ reflected
In her baby's features then?

WHEN the shepherds came to worship,
And the wise men from afar,
Treasure-laden, brought the story
Of the wondrous guiding star;
As they bowed in adoration,
And with gifts their homage sealed,
Was the Saviour of all people
To his mother's soul revealed?

WHEN, beside the temple's portal,
Simeon, by the Spirit taught,
Half in prayer and half in promise,
Blessed the little child she brought,
Did she, in her rapt amazement,
Understand the import full
Of his strange, prophetic message:
"Yea, a sword shall pierce thy soul"?

WHEN, into the land of Egypt,
Hastily they took their flight,
At the bidding of the angel,
Under cover of the night;
While she hastened to secure him
From the cruel king's behest,
Did she know the world's Redeemer
Sweetly slept upon her breast?

WHEN she found him in the temple
With the doctors of the law;
Heard his questions and his answers,
Strangely moved by what she saw;
Do you think she then bethought her
Of the work he had to do;
Of his great, mysterious mission,
Do you think his mother knew?

WHEN at Cana's wedding supper,
Lo! the wine had given out,
Did she see his higher Sonship
In the miracle he wrought?
Did she know his God-like power,
Thus the elements to sway,
When she whispered to the servants,
Whatsoe'er he bids, obey?

WHEN he sent to her this message,
“He that doth my Father’s will,
Is my mother, sister, brother,”

Did the sword her being thrill?
Did she feel that round about him,
Drawing with a stronger cord
Than the love of son for mother,
Was his Father’s work and word?

WHEN she saw him, by the soldiers,
To the cross of Calvary led,
Scourged and smitten, robed in purple,
Crown of thorns upon his head;
Heard him, in his deepest anguish,
Say to her, “Behold thy son,”
And to John, “Behold thy mother,”
Could she say, “Thy will be done”?

WHEN, within the upper chamber,
On the day of Pentecost,
Through her soul she felt the power
Of the promised Holy Ghost,
Do you think she comprehended,
Even then, the wondrous plan,
God the Father, Son, and Spirit
Wrought to rescue fallen man?

LITTLE in the Book is written
Of the things she said and did;
Only in her heart she pondered
All she heard, and kept it hid.
But at last, when she had entered
Through the door he opened wide,
To the presence of the Father,
She was fully satisfied.



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