

**AT  
CHRISTMAS TIME**

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At Christmas Time by Charles W. Wendte

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**CHARLES W. WENDTE**

**AT  
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*Fronispiece*

AT  
CHRISTMAS TIME

BY  
CHARLES W. WENDTE

"Glory to God in the highest  
Peace on earth to men of good will"



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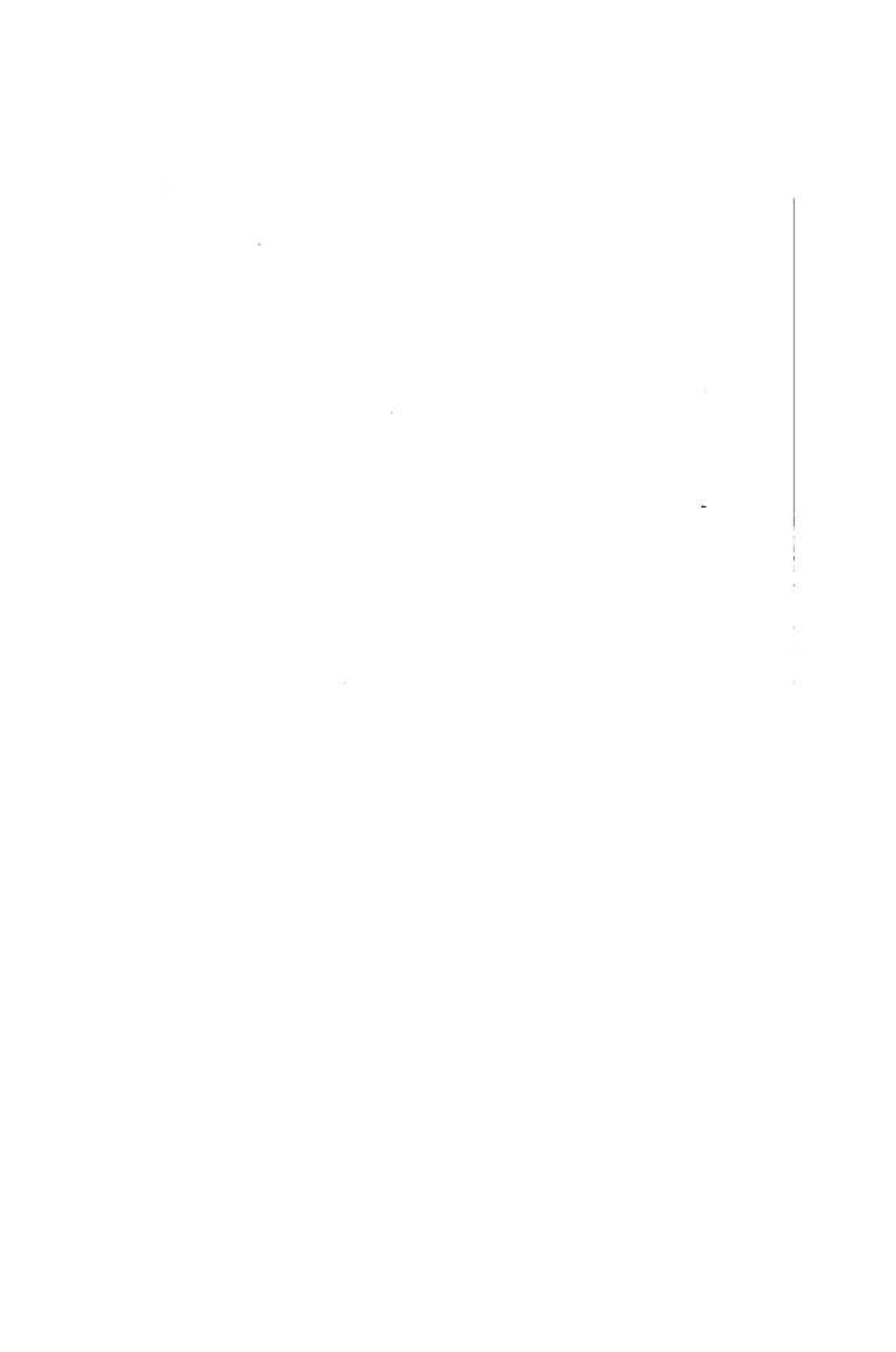
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## IN DEDICATION

**H**IS Christmas offering of song and story is affectionately dedicated to the teachers and children, past and present, of the Sunday Schools with which for threescore years and ten I have been so happily associated as pupil, organist, teacher or pastor. The list includes parishes in New England, the Middle West, and on the Pacific Coast.

The dedication, furthermore, is to all, both young and old, who may have found enjoyment and religious uplift in the Song and Service Books which, in by-gone days, with the aid of friendly helpers, I prepared for liberal Christian Sunday schools and homes — "The Sunny Side," "The Carol," "Jubilate Deo," and "Heart and Voice."

## In Dedication

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No service I may have been able to render has given me more pleasurable labor and grateful reward. Let me but help to shape the child-song of the church and I care not who frames its doctrines. To quote, with slight variation, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes' beautiful sentiment —

“Full many a poet's labored lines  
A century's creeping waves will hide,  
The verse the children's love enshrines  
Stands like the rock that breasts the tide.

Time wrecks the proudest piles we raise,  
The towers, the domes, the temples fall,  
The fortress crumbles and decays,  
One breath of song outlasts them all.”

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The most fascinating Christmas story ever told is the narrative of the birth of Christ, as we read it in the Gospels. The loveliest Christmas Carol ever sung is the glad announcement of the angelic messenger: “Unto you is born this day a saviour which is Christ the Lord. . . . Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!” All other Christmas stories and poems are but echoes and variants of this unparalleled original.