

THE STABLE AND THE TOWN

PAUL STARRS, O.P.

*"Our inns are crowded, purses filled;
The census brings a goodly throng,"
Said Bethl'hem folk, but failed to see
The Saviour waited for so long.*

*Their eyes were closed by worldly joys.
The things of God were hid from sight.
They saw a man, a maid; they missed
The Mother of the Prince of Light.*

*A humble cave outside the town,
A stable, cold and damp, forlorn,
Gave shelter to the holy pair
And there the Son of God was born.*

*To simple shepherds in the fields
Who spent their nights beneath the sky
And were less tied by things of earth
There came a message from on high.*

*"A Child is born," the angel said,
"A Saviour Who is Christ, the Lord."
Then all the angel choir joined
In song, and back to heaven soared.*

*The shepherds went that they might find
The Child Who was to be their King.
They came and knelt beside the crib
In faith and reverence worshipping.*

*The Saviour still will come to those
Whose souls from ties of earth are free.
The others, sunk in worldly cares,
Indeed have eyes, but do not see.*

*Where will you be this Christmas day
When once again the Lord comes down?
Look in your heart and say: Will you
Be in the stable or the town?*