For Xmas

— and thou with Him.

With his own lips, he told the Shepherds there was born a Saviour to them: — ~~but there~~ But was more to be told than that." And suddenly there was with him a multitude ~~An~~ of the heavenly Host."

(Wait a moment, please, my pious friend, till I ~~tell the~~ explain a word to two here, those ~~workmen~~ ~~something~~.) workmen)

People generally think that this verse means only that ~~after~~ ~~there came more angels to sing~~ — after one angel had spoken, then came more angels to sing, in the manner of a Chorus.

But It means for another thing that that. If you look back to Genesis 2. 1. you will find the creation summed, thus So the Heavens and Earth were finished, and all the Host of them. Whatever living powers of any order, great or small and to rule it order them: (the word in the Greek Bible is the one Carlyle uses so often. Kosmos.) were to inhabit either. So the Host of Earth includes the ants & worms of it. The Host of Heaven includes — we know not what — how should we! — the creatures that are in the ~~[illegible]~~ stars ~~of it~~, which we cannot wait — in the space ~~of it~~ which we cannot imagine ~~despise — and the~~ some of them ~~perhaps~~ ~~angels indeed~~ to us; ~~flying pursuivants~~ to Spirits of heaven so little and so low that they can become flying pursuivants to this grain of microscopic sand of we live on — others having missions — doubtless — to larger particles of sand — and I hope — to wiser & happier creatures on them.

But the vision of the multitude of the heavenly host means at least that all the varied powers of the ~~[illegible]~~ other outer world which have any concern with or relation to this — because in some way visible — having interest, they in the praise — as all the Host of Earth in the power of this Birth of a Child King in David's Town.

~~There was no doubt~~ And this was what they So they Had to sing — Peace — to the Lowest of the Two Hosts, Peace on Earth; And ~~Better the~~ Praise — in the Highest of the two Hosts — and better than peace — and sweeter than Praise — Love, ~~towards~~ and among men.

The men in question, ambitious of ~~singing something like what~~ Praising God after the manner of the Host of heaven have written something like what they suppose this song of peace & Love to have been, ~~have written~~ and sing it themselves in state — (as being so particularly appropriate) ~~hymn which they sing themselves especially~~ after successful battles: but you hear it, those of you who go to church, every Sunday

A Page of the MS. of "Fors Clavigera" (Letter 12, §§ 9, 10)

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