Once In Royal David's City

Irby

Music: H.J. Gauntlett, 1805-1929

1. Once in Royal David’s City
   Where a mother laid her baby
   Stood a manger for his bed.

2. He came down to earth from heaven,
   Who is God and Lord of all,
   And his shelter was a stable,
   And his cradle was a stall,
   With the poor and mean and lowly,
   Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3. We like Mary rest confounded
   that a stable should display
   heaven’s Word, the world’s creator,
   Cradled there on Christmas Day,
   Yet this child, our Lord and brother,
   Brought us love for one another

4. And through all his wondrous childhood
   He would honour and obey,
   Love and watch the lowly maiden,
   In whose gentle arms he lay:
   Christian children all must be
   Mild, obedient, good as he.

5. For he is our childhood pattern;
   Day by day like us he grew,
   He was little, weak and helpless,
   Tears and smiles like us he knew;
   And he feeleth for our sadness
   And he shareth in our gladness.

6. And our eyes at last shall see him
   Through his own redeeming love,
   For that child so dear and gentle
   Is our Lord in heaven above;
   And he leads his children on
   To the place where he is gone.

7. Not in that poor lowly stable
   With the oxen standing by,
   We shall see him but in heaven,
   Set at God’s right hand on high;
   When like stars his children crowned
   All in white shall wait around.