Angel hosts in bright array

George Pierce Grantham (ca. 1833 - ?)

VERSE

1. Angel hosts in bright array, Stars their night-watch keeping,

2. Earthward wend their silent way, While the world lies sleeping.

3. Through the wintry clouds they glide, On through portal hoa-ry,

4. Where, the ox and ass beside, Lies the Babe of Glory.

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2. All unseen by mortal eye,  
Reverent and lowly;  
Prostrate there, they laud on high  
Him, the INFANT HOLY.  
From their lips celestial rise  
Sounds, with joy o'erflowing,  
Strains upborne beyond the skies,  
Hymns with rapture glowing.  
Ring the bells, &c.

3. Hark the news the Angel tells: —  
Lo! an INFANT Stranger  
GOD's dear SON among you dwells,  
Born in Bethlehem's manger!  
Bursts a chorus from the sky.  
Loud from Heaven's portal: —  
Glory be to GOD on High,  
Peace, good-will to mortal!  
Ring the bells, &c.

4. Angel spirits earthward led,  
With a hope endearing,  
First to worship, first to spread,  
News of CHRIST's Appearing!  
Trace we out your footfalls light,  
Praise we CHRIST in glory,  
Then waft on the tidings bright  
Of the Gospel story!  
Ring the bells, &c.

(Source: Carols old and carols new, Boston, 1916)