## **Upon the snow-clad earth**

Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900)



- 3. A stable and a manger, where
  The oxen lowed around,
  Was all the shelter Bethlehem gave,
  The welcome that they found!
  Yet blessed among women was
  That holy mother-maid,
  Who on that night her First-born Son
  There in the manger laid.
- 4. The King of kings, and Lord of lords,
  E'en from His very Birth,
  Had not a place to lay His Head,
  An outcast on the earth:
  And yet we know that little Babe
  Was tender to the touch,
  And weak as other infants are;
  He felt the cold as much.
- In swaddling bands she wrapped Him round,
   And smoothed His couch of straw,
   While unseen Angels watched beside,
   In mute, adoring awe.
   How softly did they fold their wings
   Beneath that star-lit shed,
   While Eastern Sages from afar
   The new-born radiance led!
- 6. And thus it is, from age to age,
  That as this night comes 'round,
  So sweetly, underneath the moon,
  The Christmas carols sound.
  Because to us a Child is born
  Our Brother, and our King,
  Angels in Heaven, and we on earth,
  Our joyful anthems sing.

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