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# **Lays of Christmas**

**Murray Thomas Boyles**

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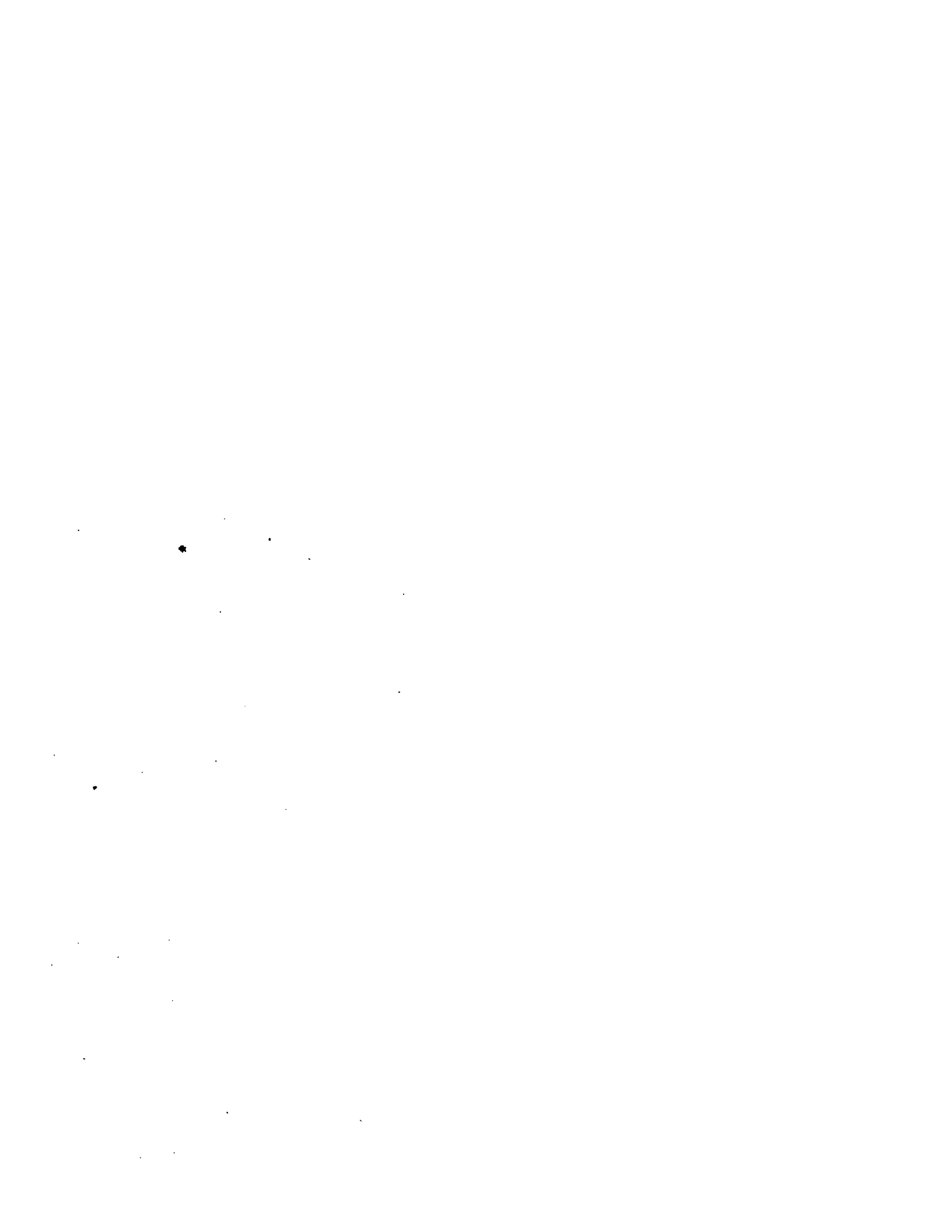
**Title: Lays of Christmas**

**Author: Murray Thomas Boyles**

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Stern Winter, thou art kind  
To those who know thy way;  
The frost, the snow, and biting wind,  
His blessings to us bring.

LAYS OF CHRISTMAS:

An Offering

FOR THE

Christmas Season.

BY THE REV.

THOMAS BOYLES MURRAY, M.A.

RECTOR OF ST. DUNSTAN IN THE EAST,  
AND PREBENDARY OF ST. PAUL'S.

What is the object of the ear? A sound.  
What the best sound? A voice. What voice is found  
To be the best? A voice of words compos'd.  
What words the best? The words by God disclos'd.

Fitz Geffry's *Blessed Birth-Day*. 1638

London:

FRANCIS & JOHN RIVINGTON,  
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH YARD, AND WATERLOO PLACE.

MDCCKLVII.





### PREFATORY NOTICE.

THE author is aware that he has occupied but a small portion, and that very imperfectly, of the subject opened in the title. The subject is vast indeed : and in those branches of it, in connexion with the Nativity, of which he has ventured to treat, he feels that human language falls infinitely short, and is wholly unworthy, of the accounts given us in the sacred page. He will not, however, have to regret his undertaking, should this little collection lead the minds of any, especially the young, to a humble and careful study of the subject in the words of Holy Scripture itself.



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## I.

## THE SHEPHERDS OF BETHLEHEM.

## I.

ON Judah's hills a lowly band  
Their flocks in safety kept :  
Their folds they penn'd with careful hand,  
And watch'd while others slept.

## II.

No helpless sheep was seen to stray,  
No ravening wolf was nigh ;  
Their fleecy charge securely lay  
Beneath the spangled sky.

## III.

And were not these a faithful few  
Of Abraham's stock indeed,  
Who long'd, with faithful hearts and true,  
For David's promised Seed ?

## IV.

Their thoughts, perchance, were fix'd on One  
Whom Prophets had foretold ;  
Him, Who should bring each wandering son  
Within the Shepherd's fold ;

## V.

The Lord, Who loves his flock to feed,  
To guard from strange alarms,  
In tender grass his lambs to lead,  
Or bear them in his arms :

## VI.

Who calls his sheep, that know his voice,  
To seek with one accord  
The living waters that rejoice  
The city of the Lord.

## VII.

O happy shepherds! blest were they,  
When from the Father's throne  
Angelic hosts in bright array  
Brought news of mercy down.

## VIII.

Thus first to men of humble birth  
Were told the wondrous things,  
Which bow'd the idols of the earth,  
And check'd the pride of kings.

## IX.

In daily duty's constant round,  
And works of trust and care,  
Thus, like the Shepherds, faithful found,  
May we their blessing share.

