Recent Researches and Identifications in the Holy Land.

Historic Places and Monuments Around Jerusalem and Bethlehem-Two-Thirds of the Biblical Sites Identified.

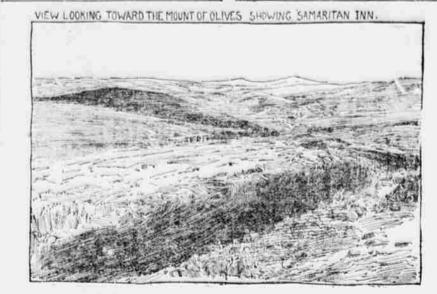
(Copyright, 1986, by S. S. McClure Company.) There is no country in the world that has been so thoroughly explored by strangers as Paicetine. Ever since the time of Constan tine pilgrims have visited it and have reorded their impressions in books. But I was left to the pineteenth century to investigate this fand in a scientific manner. The great Robinson, after fifteen years of preparatios in his American study, mastering al the results obtained in previous ages, made one visit, then another, and completed in 1852 a work which remained the standard for a quarter of a century. Then came the survey of Western Palestine by Conder and other officers of the Palestine Exploration Fund. This work lasted five years and ther resulted in a map of almost perfect accuracy and a collection of 10,000 topographical names. Of the 622 biblical names relating to Western Palestine found in the bible, 262 were known before the survey, 172 were recovered by the survey, leaving 188, or only about 30 per cent still unidentified. Of the a matte New Testan ent sites hardly more than a feelings. Hence Christ may be followed in his jour-

HIGHWAYS OF THE BIBLE point of view. Some strenuous Prostestants are so painfully affected by these accepts. that though they came to Jerusalem believ-ing in the craditional sites, they relinquish their faith and seek them elsewhere. These people (and I have met them often) do not realize that they are showing a curious wanting in the historic spirit, the very lack

Venus. Hence it was inferred that shrine was erected to conceal the tor Thus the tradition turns out to be a product of the pious but merciful fourth century.

LOCATION OF CAVALRY. The possibility of the site is another ques-on. Christ was crucified outside the gate and the traditional site is not far from the center of the present city. Much has been written upon this question, but I need only of which leads to the choice of these sites.

If a site be true, it continues true no matter what foolish things are done at it by foolish people. If a site be unproved,



is remains unproved no matter how attractively it may work on the imagination. Such a matter is a question of facts, not of

And what are the facts relating to the

VIEW FROM GETHSEMANE NW. PROBABLE LOCALITY OF REAL GETHSEMANE



lage. For Palestine is really a small country. It has been estimated that it might be traversed by a fast express from north to south in six hours and from east to west in less than two. The places visited by our Lord are thus near together; the roads today naturally follow the course of the roads of His time. If you make allowance for the deterioration of the country, you can easily reconstruct its ancient appearance.

The main features are of course the same. Heluin raised its snowy dome north of the sea of Gallon is snowy dome north of the sea of Gallon is small country. The place of the total of the sea of Gallon is identification of the loly Sepuichre? Excelbins, a contemporary of the alleged like place of a Skull, and that He place called Skull; and that He was buried in a new tomb i

The main features are of course the same. Heluin raised its snowy dome north of the sea of Galilee then as it does to-day. Standing can the Mount of Olives you may look down over the extraordinary depression of the Jordan valley to the mountains of Mosh, cleft by splendld ravines, their base bathed by the Dead sea (that mysterious sea, so densely blue), and feel that you are looking at the same scene that our Lord so often surveyed. In Galthat our Lord so often surveyed. In Gal-ilee you may ride over the rich green plains and may imagine them richer and greener in the old times, but the red and purple and vellow of the wild flowers have not altered. At the lake of Genessaret you will miss the stately palaces and synagogues of which you have read, but the same hills look down upon the waters once covered with a multitude of sails. The peasants you pass are tilling the soil in the same old way. In dress, in habits, in the very way they salute you, they differ little from the ancient Galileeans.

SITES IDENTIFIED. I have said that with the exception of dozen, all the New Testament sites are But here we must distinguish. By a site I do not mean a particular house

born we do not know. I have taken this for illustrating my point, because the cave shown today in Bethlehem as the place of

the manger was shown in the second century after Christ, as told by Justin Martyr.

It is a very ancient tradition. It is separated from the events by a space of only 150 years. But that space is just where the

trouble comes in. You may argue on the one hand that Justin Martyr might have known some one whose father had been contemporary with the aposites and that the

apostles would certainly have pointed out the spot. And I may answer that the spos-

tles did not seem to care anything about the places where Christ taught and healed so filled were they with the facts of his

teaching and healing, that the Jerusalem Christians fled beyond Jordan before the aw-ful destruction by Titus, and that they do

not seem to have returned until Hadrian re-constructed the city under the new name of Aelia Capitolina, and hence that the condi-tions were not favorable for the preserva-

tion of the tradition. There is probability on your side and on mine. But it is cer-tainly not probability that we should serie and it is just this certainty that we both

WARRING SECTS. If this uncertainty obtains in regard to

such an ancient tradition, how much greater it becomes when we deal with the crop of

traditions that just appear at the time of Constantine, some 175 years later. Most of these particularized identifications cen-ter about the death and resurrection of

Christ. The place of crucifixion, the stone of annointing, the place where the lost cross was found, and the very place where the tree grew from which the cross was made are all shown and believed in. So potent

has not yet been found, nor, may I add, wil it ever be found until some archaeologica millionaire can buy up a third of Jerusalem and demolish it in the interests of this problem. My view is that the probabilities are against the idea that this site was outsid the city, but I do not press upon the pub-lic an idea in probabilities.

With the site of the Holy Sepulchre go, of course, most of the others. If Calvary is not known, then the way to Calvary is not known, and the Via Dolorosa disappears. The upper room, the house of Calphas, the exact spot of Philip's judgment hall, are all in the same category. During the tourist n the same category. During the tourist season here in Jerusalem the most frequent question asked me is: "What do you think of Gordon's Calvary?" To the north of the city, a little to the east

of the high road to Nabbis, is a rounded hill, with a cliff and cave on one side, suggesting to some the effect of a skull. This has been advocated by many, including General Gordon, whose name has done much to give the idea popularity, as the true place of crucifixion. And close by is a tomb, which some regard as the tomb of Christ. As we asked before, what are the facts?

INSUFFICIENT BIBLICAL DATA.

If we reject tradition, then a correspond-ence to biblical data can be our only guide in choosing a new site. The more detailed the data, the more probable will be a given identification. If the correspondence holds good throughout. The more general and indefinite the data, the greater the number of places that may appear to correspond. From the New Testament we learn that Christ was crucified outside the city, yet near the



applying to a town, mountain or river. Implous men had, previously to his time, ferred that the place must be on a public And here, if we wish to be scientific (which is only another name for truthful), to tricus monument to darkness and oblivion, inferred that it must be on a hill. It was distinguish between what is really known A shrine of Venus had been erected over the called "skull" and it is inferred that it must be on a hill. It was distinguish between what is really known A shrine of Venus had been erected over the called "skull" and it is inferred that it must be on a hill resembling a skull. I need not cite and what is merely presumed, we must part spot by these same impious men in order to be a hill resembling a skull. I need not cite company with the names of pilgrims who conce I t. The ds overy seemed to be beyond all the arguments which have led Protestants have visited the Holy Land from the all hope and Constantine in a letter describes to believe in this new site with the same force of the Holy Land from the all hope and Constantine in a letter describes to believe in this new site with the same earlist times. Bethlehem we know—the it as being a miracle beyond the capacity of fervor that Roman Catholics and other lavish on the old. Some day another Gordon

MOUNT OF THE TEMPTATION

exact spot in Bethlehem where Christ was man to comprehend. Could language below we do not know. I have taken this for plainer? Does it not indicate that the alternative control of the c

lical facts will lend themselves to the new argument as readily as to the old one for the simple reason that they are insufficient in themselves to establish any site.

But if all these sites go, what is left? From a broad point of view, the best remains. Christ was baptised in the Jordan, and the barks of this stream alter little in miles and miles; what is gained by fixing the precise spot? The exact location of the Garden of Getheemane is not known, but if you

plainer? Does it not indicate that the rice had been lost? Moreover, Eusebius, writing

ten years before these events, speaks of pil-grims visiting the Mount of Olives as the

eye ranges up and down the olive groves in the Kedeon valley it must pass the scene of the Agony. At Bethany you are certainly in the small village where Lazarus was raised from the tomb, and it matters little that where the tomb itself is no man really knows. On returning from Bethany suddenly the view of Jerusalem bursts upon you-right below you is the deep Kedeon valley; towering above this the great courtyard of the Mosque of Omar; and still higher the domes of the city. And it was this same view, only far more extensive and stately, with the temple and its court occupying the area where the Mosque of Islam now stands, that burst upon our Lord whenever he also returned from Bethany

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA. While the traditions are in general worth-

will choose another site, and the slight bib

less, some of them are supported by ar chacological and other considerations. I you walk around the area of the Mosque on the outside you may see in many places the massive stones of the wall forming the enclosure of Herod's temple, and ex-cavations have proved that eighty feet of this wall are still standing beneath the rubbish. The Pera haunch-stones, known scene of the Ascension, and the cave at as Robinson's arch, springing from the Bethlehem, but is silent about the Holy west wall of the Hacam, represent all that Sepulcher. Partirans, however, would make is left of a great bridge across the valley

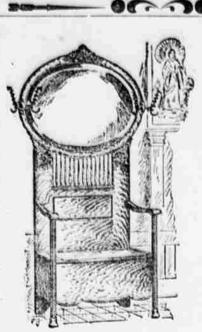


ie this belief, that Christendom has for-gotten its Christianity and Islam is forced out Eusebius to mean that it was known that that separated the temple from the upper the fact of the church of the Holy in the shrine of Venus stood over the sacred city. And this bridge stood in the time alf, the well out of which the was one of successful excavation, a known but buried site, occupies the site of one of Herod's Royal ring their risen Lord. The lofty dome of the thing and that the miracle was one of successful excavation, a known but buried site, occupies the site of one of Herod's Royal ring their risen Lord. The lofty dome of the traitor finds is said to have harded the building of the traitor finds is said to have harded the building of the traitor finds is said to have harded the building of the traitor finds is said to have harded the building of the traitor finds is said to have harded the building of the traitor finds is said to have harded the building of the traitor finds is said to have harded the building of the traitor finds is said to have harded the building of the traitor finds is said to have harded the building of the traitor finds is said to have harded the building of the traitor finds is said to have harded the building of the time all, the well out of which the well out of which the building of the traitor finds is said to have harded the building of the time all, the well out of which the building of the traitor finds is said to have harded the find the time all, the well out of which the well out of which the well out of which the building of the traitor finds is said to have harded the find the time all, the well out of which well out of which the well out o to keep the key of the church of the Holy the shrine of Venus stood over the sacred Sepulchre, lest the various seets come to tomb and that the miracle was one of sucblows while they emulate each other in cossful excavation, a known but buried site.

honoring their risen Lord. The lefty dome But a plain man, with no theory to prove.

A BOWER OF BEAUTY

Young and old find enjoyment in this store. The merchandise itself forms unique decorations in the changes that make the old store a new store every day. It's a Christmas store all over-ready for frequent visits from the thousands of people within easy reach, and just as ready for enjoyment by the faraway people who can come to Omaha.



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with its towers and gates, but part of this wall is undoubtedly Jewish. The pool of Siloam is known certainly, and the pool of Bethesda is all probability. Again Jacob's well in Samaria is a site accepted by schol-ars. But I have no space to give a com-plete list. If I have succeeded in showling the reader that traditional sites un-supported by other evidence are of little Turkish soldiers in full uniform of red fezzes.

That so few ancient monuments remain in have lain in the manger.

The payemen Jerusalem is no wonder. Never was a city of the Jebusiles to that of Saladin, it suffered then by sieges. The Jerusalem of the Jews was blotted out by Titus. Hardly had they re-established themselves when Hadrian transferred it into a Roman city, with a Roman mame. In the seventh century come

people of Bethlehem will come out to mee them, and then, preceded by gayly attired wand bearing heralds, and followed by an immense throng of men, women and chil-dren, they will march toward the Church of the Nativity, the oldest monument of Chris-tian architecture in the world.

worth, then I may leave him to work out blue jackets and baggy trousers stand on worth, then I may reave him to work our particular cases by reference to the authorities, guard beside the altar and around the brilliant silver star where Christ is supposed to

so overturned; never was a city occupied by such various civilizations. From the time grotto. Lamps, the figures of many saints of the Jebusites to that of Saladin, it suffered and other ornaments are in this grotto, and

the Moslems with their ideas of architecture. All those objects are considered of inesti-In the eleventh came the Crusaders with mable value by the members of the differ-their western notions. Now we have the ent church sects, and were it not for the Turks. And what is true of Jerusalem in particular is true of the whole country in general. Palestine is the battlefield of nations. But while armies may ravage towns

"Here western notions. Now we have the first country in presence of Turkish soldiers it is more than particular is true of the whole country in presence of Turkish soldiers it is more than particular is true of Jerusalem in particular is true of Jerusalem in particular is true of Jerusalem in presence of Turkish soldiers it is more than particular is true of Jerusalem in particular is true of Jerusalem in

Eugene Field, "Love Songs of Childhood." Father calls me William, sister calls me Will, Mother calls me Willie, but the fellers call me Bill!
Mighty glad I ain't a giri-ruther be a boy,
Without them sashes, curls an' things
that's worn by Fauntleroy.

Love to chawnk green apples an' go swim-ming in the lake— Hate to take the castor ile they give for hellyache. Most all the time the year 'round there But jest 'fore Christmas I'm as good as I

Got a yeller dog named Sport, sick him on First thing she knows she doesn't know Got a clipper sied, an' when us kids goes out to slide. ong comes the grocery cart, an we all But sometimes when the grocery man is worrited an' cross He reaches at us with a whip, an' larrups An' then I laft an' holler, "Oh, ye never teched me," But jest 'fore Christmas I'm as good as I kin be!

Gran'ma says she hopes that when I git Uil be a missionarer like her oldest brother, Dan, was et up by the cannibuls thet lives on Where every prospect pleases, an' only man bs vile.
But gran'ma she has never been to see a
Wild West show,
Nor red the life of Daniel Boone, or else I
guess she'd know
That Buffalo Bill an' cowboys is good enough for me, Except jest 'fore Christmas, when I'm as good as I kin be!

An' when old Sport he hangs around, so solemn-like an' still,
His eyes they seem a-sayin', "What's the matter, little Bill?"
The old cat sneaks down off her perch an' wonders what'd become That mother says to father; "How improved our Willie is,"
But father having been a boy hisself, suspicions me When jest 'fore Christmas I'm as good as I kin be!

For Christmas, with its lots an' lots of candles, cakes, an' toys, Was made, they say, for proper kids an' not for naughty boys; an' bresh yer hair, an' y wear out yer shoes;

y "yessum" to the ladies, an' "yes, sur"
to the men,
n' when there's company, don't pass yer plate for ple agoin: But, thinkin' of the things yer'd like to see upon that tree fore Christmas be as good as yer

A CHRISTMAS LEGACY.

Fimely Windfall by Which Stockings Were Filled and a Home Secured. Here is a bit of elsterly confidence and emiliacence of a Christmas incident that

different things were with us ten, or, shan we say, twenty years ago.

Maybe you don't like to have those facts brought to light, but I rather do, for I tike to think that we have gotten on and reality are methody, even if we were as poor as Joha turkey then. I wonder if you remember the little house of five rooms where we eight children lived and throve, and always seemed to have plenty of room, too. It must have to have plenty of room, too. It must have to have plenty of room, too. It must have the had consumption, was given up to die, sought all medical treatment that money could procure, tried all cough remedies he could hear of, but got no relief; spent many nights sitting up in the King's Dis-

beast in town had, or had had the "epizoot-ic," and the teams that brought in our liv-ing were in the fashion with both feet—could

ac Jon

not work and had to be fed. Things were mighty blue all around.

That Christmas eve mother took me, the eldest, into her confidence, and told me that there was simply no money for Christmas presents, and that I must not say one word about it for father was feellest believed. about it, for father was feeling badly enough without having any complaints added to his burdens. She had baked a lot of fancy cookies-you know how she used to cut them out -and had popped corn to help fill the little ones' stockings. After all this richness sho still had 20 cents that she could use for candy, and I was to go uptown with father when he went for the groceries and get as much candy as I could for the money. It makes me sick yet to remember how she looked when six little tots hung up their stockings and told Santa Claus what they

Well, father and I went uptown and I know it was the Lord that sent us to the postoffice. for we never went there at that time of night. There was a letter—a big lawyer-looking affair that I tried to read because my eyes were 'younger' than father's. It didn't mean a thing to me, but what a dif-ference in father! He grew an inch, I'm sure, and I can see his blue eyes gleam yet.
You know he never wasted words, and he
didn't begin then. The only thing he said
was, "Won't mother be glad?" That meant
our mother, not his, for his mother had been

dead for years. I think we went to a lawyer after that and ound that the document was all right, and that it meant a fortune to us—only a mat-ter of \$1,000, but what a Christmas present for people as "short" as we were. Well, my dear, you got more in your stock-ing that night than you'd ever had before, for father's credit was good, and he bought

everything he thought the babies would like They didn't run delivery wagons in our town then, but he and I and the grocery boy managed to get home with our loads.

When mother saw the packages she began to cry and said: "Now, you've just gone in debt for these things, and where is the money to come from to pay for them, I'd like to-

Father put her off by saying that he didn't like to have the children disappointed, but she burst out with: "They'll have to get used to being disappointed, and it won't be long till they'll have to stay at home from school, too, for I have to wash their last decent clothes every Saturday now to have them clean for Monday. They need shoes worse than those drums and dolls and fooleries."

This was warm, yee, but I think father was glad of it, for he was having hard work to not break down in the telling of his news. He just put his hand on her shoulder with "Cheer up, honey. The Lord'll take care of the children's education, and here's the assurance of it," laying the letter before her. We had a scene of course—you know, we till they'll have to stay at home from school, We had a scene, of course—you know, we are built that way—but you knew nothing about it for the sandman held your big brown eyes as you lay beside our other little sister, long since gone to the beautiful land beyond. We filled the stockings, and, oh, such a dinner next day. Our mother cooked it, and you know that nobody before or since could touch the hem of her garment when it came

o cooking. They paid what they called "their debts"—I really believe that amounted to as much as \$40—bought a few much needed articles of furniture and invested the rest in that little

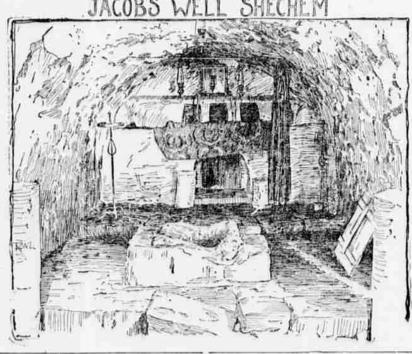
Here is a bit of elsterly confidence and reminiscence of a Christmas incident that will find an echo in many hear's and, mayhap, recall to the middle-aged pleasant memories of youth's Yuletide:

DES MOINES, Ia., March 17, 1896.—Mrs. M. E. Wilson—Dear May: Today, when I came home from a conference with the jew-cler on the subject of having my diamonds reset, I found your letter describing your new onlyx table. It must be a beauty and I hope your boy won't run his 'bike' into it and crack it, as little Jack did ours. But, and crack it as little Jack did ours. But, and crack it as little Jack did ours. But, and crack it as little Jack did ours. But, and crack it as little Jack did ours. But, and crack it as little Jack did ours. But, and crack it as little Jack did ours. But, and crack it as little Jack did ours. But, and crack it as little Jack did ours. But, and crack it as little Jack did ours. But, and crack it as little Jack did ours. But, and crack it as little Jack did ours. But, and crack it as little Jack did ours. But, and crack it as little Jack did ours. But the elebase had the could compare with our father, and I think our mother must hav

nore company than we wanted, and there cover was a time when there was not come a chair; was induced to try Dr. King's Discovery, and was cured by the use of two bottles. For the past three years has been slept.

I don't suppose you ever knew where we got the money to buy even that little house. If you ever thought of it at all, you would be sure that it could never have been saved out of father's two dollars and a half a day with eight children to feed.

It was the winter that we were harder up of the past three years has been attending to business, and says Dr. King's New Discovery is the grandest remedy even made, as it has done so much for him and also for others in his community. Dr. King's New Discovery is guaranteed for Coughs, Colds and Consumption. It don't fail. Trial bottles free at Kuhn & Co.'s It was the winter that we were harder up | drug store.



and temples, and while time and decay may the Christmas eve ceremonies end. complete the destruction, in its broad, na- Christmas day the regular Roman Catholic tural features the country is the same as service will be held in the same church, and when our Lord trod its paths. F. J. BLISS.

csque Old Town.
This is a great season in Bethlehem. The

to do honor to the Eavier of mankind as ; surely as the year rolls around. To this place, as the followers of Mahomet flock to Mecca, the followers of Christ come

holy meditation. Pilgrimages are also made to a grotto

taken. They began several weeks ago, and even now the 6,000 inhabitants of Bethlehem toyous betrothals.

After the carnival there is a feast, during which there is no self-giorification, no pam-sect claims possession of the holy places, an pering of the flesh or love making. At the naturally regards any other sect which wo end of the first, which will close next week, the Christmas ceremonics will take place. On Christmas eve the Christians in Jeru-selem will gather together and flock out of the city with their faces and for the Church of years pass there boundary between Ben'amin and Judah. They will see, as they pass the tree on which the traitor Judas is said to have hanged him-self, the well out of which the wise men drew water after they had left Herod.

the remainder of the day will be spent in merrymaking.
During the evening friends will visit CHRISTMAS DAY IN BETHLEHEM. During the evening freeze courtesies. The cach other and exchange courtesies. The spirit of peace and joy will brood over the

old town, and when the ceremonies end the Christians of Bethlehem may say to This is a great season in Bethlehem. The themselves, "Verily, for us as for so many picturesque old town where Christ was born, generations of our ancestors this has been relates the New York Herald, never forgets a happy season." During the visiting period an abundance

consumed, and many young men and maids who became betrothed before the fast will be joined in the bonds of matrimony. Cymannually on the day of his nativity. Here bals are favorite instruments in the cast they kneel and pray and spend the time in and their music is never louder than during Christmas week in Bethlehem. With such music the pilgrims are wel

of coffee, sweetmeats and tobacco will b

near the Church of the Nativity, which is supposed to be the site of the palace of justice, where innumerable children were slain by order of King Herod.

These pilgrimages are not lightly under-figureheads. That the members of the value of the same music ine pingrims are with the sum of the same music ine pingrims are with the sum of the same music ine pingrims are with the sum of the same music ine pingrims are with the sum of the same music ine pingrims are with the sum of the same music ine pingrims are with the sum of the same music ine pingrims are with the same music in the same music interpretarion and the same music in the same music interpretarion and the same music in the same music in the same music in the same music interpretarion and the same musi rious Christian sects in the east are no over friendly to each other is well known are enjoying a long, happy festival. Many and the soldiers are considered absolutely are the banquets, the social visits and the casential to guard against an outbreak of fanaticism. The trouble lies in the fact that eac

ships in them as an interloper. Thank however, to the vigilance of the soldiers as the other authorities; no serious outbreak have ever arisen at this serson, and as the the Nativity, in Bethlehem. They will march an amicable understanding will be finally ar down through the valley of Gibon, the old rived at.

Indiana has an up-to-date church which has opened a nursery in the basement of the building for the accommodation of mothers who desire to attend the services, but have no one with whom to leave their The same church has also a room