

My Journey to Bethlehem

Being a description of a visit to the Holy Land in the year 1901. — Article written for the Christmas Number of the Twentieth Century Farmer and reproduced by permission.

The Christian world has an undying interest in the little town of Bethlehem, Judea, and as Christmas day draws near how natural that our thoughts should turn in the direction of that historic and sacred city. My journey to Jerusalem to Bethlehem ten years ago in company with a dozen others on horseback is still green in my memory. It was a delightful ride amidst the most thrilling scenes and associations. It should be remembered that the people and country of Palestine are much the same today as in the time of Christ in the days of David, 3,000 years ago; hence the interest and profit of a visit to that land today by Christian people. The inhabitants of the land still journey on foot or ride on donkeys and camels, as in the olden time. You may now see two persons sitting on the ground facing each other and grinding at the old hand stone mill, as in the time of our Saviour.

The road from Jerusalem to Bethlehem is excellent and runs through a picturesque country. The country was at its best when I saw it, having just come out of the spring rains and clothed in its richest garments. The white macadamized road running through a land of rich and beautiful green looked like a broad, white, white limestone house, without a single brick or frame building in it. I think the same is true of all the cities of Palestine. There are about 500 square shaped houses in the city of Bethlehem and perhaps 4,000 inhabitants. How charming is some of the scenery around this place. There is no more beautiful natural scenery on earth than some portions of the Holy Land.

The graceful and beautiful women of Bethlehem have become proverbial for their good looks, a fact which has ever attracted the attention of nearly all tourists there. This is a Christian city, in which, it is said, not a Jew or Mohammedan resides. The only other town in Palestine which is really Christian is Nazareth, though it is not absolutely so, as is Bethlehem. Its women are handsome, and Christianity is not only productive of beautiful characters, but beautiful physical features. America, the most Christian country of the

globe, has, it is said, the most handsome people in the world, and I believe it. There is no telling how much Greece, whose people were so handsome and whose philosophy is so peculiar, so nearly approached the truth, as found in our scriptures—especially as it relates to the incarnation—borrowed from the Hebrews, or unconsciously absorbed from them, to affect not only their ideas, but their physical appearance. The women of Christian countries are not only indebted to Christ for their special standing and most of their comforts and enjoyments, but for their physical beauty and intellectual attractions as well. In all this, and in other higher ways, woman owes a debt of gratitude to the Christian religion—to Him who was born at Bethlehem—which she never can repay.

But how tame is all the natural scenery about Bethlehem as well as the physical beauty of its people as compared with its wonderful history. It was here, Jerome, the father of church history, lived, wrote and died, and his old grove home is still pointed out to the tourist. It was here, where, by the decree of Herod the Great, the male infants were slain in order to reach Christ, and sip his kingdom in the bud, and thus do away with any possible rivals to Herod's own crown. Here lived Boni, the great grandfather of David, and ancestor of Jesus Christ, and here was born David, the son of Jesse, sweet singer of Israel.

Above all, here was born the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Here the incarnation appeared among men. Crowning the place of our Lord's birth is the Church of the Nativity, said to have been built by direction of St. Helena, mother of Constantine the Great, and the oldest Christian church on earth. Today, in as many separate parts of this church, worship the Latin, Greek and Armenian Christians. Here is pointed out the reputed site of the manger in which Jesus was born. A silver star marks the place, and over it is the inscription, "Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary." Tongue has no word, earth no symbol and imagination no conception which will do justice to one's feelings as one stands on the spot hallowed by the birth of the Savior of the world.

Silent night, hallowed night,
Softly glittered bright Bethlehem's star,
Beckoning Israel's eye from afar.
Peace, as found in our scriptures—especially as it relates to the incarnation—borrowed from the Hebrews, or unconsciously absorbed from them, to affect not only their ideas, but their physical appearance.

Packing Christmas Boxes

"Ever help send off Christmas boxes, Jim?" asked the senior partner, who is married.

"Not that anyone ever heard of," answered the junior, who is single.

"You don't know what you're mised," replied the married man. "Why, if I was out of a job at this season of the year I'd start out with an equipment something like this: Three weights of wrapping paper; ditto string; a table of mail and express rates; some excelsior for packing; a pastepot and patience."

The bachelor looked puzzled. His partner stopped to light a fresh cigar.

"I'd go from house to house, doing up Christmas parcels for women. The season is necessarily short, but I'll wager I could work eighteen hours a day and within a week some appreciative husband would offer me a life job."

"You see, it's this way. Sunday evening at our house has always been dedicated to rest and reading, but last night, just as I got comfortably settled, my wife bustled into the room with that expression on her face which comes but once a year—and then just before Christmas."

"Theodore, dear," she said, "I do wish you'd pack that box for Seattle. It must go tomorrow." (My hero was hunting for his sword just at this point and I clung to the book.) "I think I've done my duty by burying the things, especially as Harry is your brother. You might at least pack them."

"That touch of martyrdom won't do. Down went my book. 'Trot out your stuff!' I said, cheerfully.

"Jim, there are just five people in Harry's family, but in two minutes our library table looked like a bargain counter. And behind the mess sat my wife, her lap full of white tissue paper, and red and green ribbons and sprays of holly.

"I told her that the first thing I needed was a box, and she suggested the box I keep my trousers in. Now that box is one of my weak points. I don't know what it originally contained and I don't care, but it's the best receptacle for trousers I ever saw; just the right length and width, and it slides under the bed to perfection.

"I refused to sacrifice my box, and we compromised on the pasteboard concern that my last suit came home in. It was one of those things with flaps on the corners which double up like an envelope on the slightest provocation. We finally decided to paste the flaps, and I held each one till it dried.

"Heavy paper? There wasn't a decent sheet in the house, so she suggested pasting three pieces together. The boys offered to do that part, and were kept out of mischief for five minutes, during which time I wandered into the pantry, looking for that nice ball of string in the right-hand corner of the left-hand lower drawer.

"It was a nice ball, made up of every conceivable sort of twine from tinzel cord off candy boxes to light-weight rope, all carefully tied together. I weeded out the stoutest twine and knotted it to the best of my ability.

"On my return to the library I found the bachelor looking puzzled. The paper so as to press 'em. Teddy was so delighted with the success of the scheme that he beat a tattoo with his heels and a hole through the paper.

"I said we'd better let the question of paper go until the box was packed and roped. By this time my wife had laid out all the packages, each one tied with ribbon, and instructed that it was time that I get down to business. For variety and clumsiness commend me to that collection of Christmas gifts, and every other one, according to my wife's statement, was breakable.

"Oh, Theodore, do have a care. That's a papermache dog for the baby." Or, "Oh, that's one of those deer bisque figures."

"It took a five minutes' argument to convince her that each breakable object would have to be packed separately in a small box of its own in cotton batting. Item: Dabs of cotton all over my smoking jacket.

"Just as I got the package decently balanced she dived under the table and brought forth a forgotten treasure, a breakable Jack-in-the-box, which towered three good inches above every other gift. It was no use to balk. She had picked it up at a bargain at the 16-cent store and to Seattle it had to go. I repacked the whole blooming outfit and roped it.

"Then we harked back to the paper problem. With best intentions she had pasted a patch over the hole left by Teddy's exuberant heels and the sheet looked like a crazy patch-work quilt. With the first folding of the stuff every seam ripped.

"A timely inspiration saved the day, or rather, the evening. Hal remembered that stationer across the street, sold big sheets of wrapping paper to the boys to cover their school books with. He started over there, but before he struck the first landing my wife called him back.

"You'd better go yourself, Theodore," she said. "That Williams got all tangled

Greatest Opening of the Season.

up about our newspaper bill last month and made me pay it twice. He doesn't know how to keep accounts and he'll surely cheat a little boy like Hal."

"I pulled on my shoes, slipped on my overcoat over my smoking jacket and slid across the street. I forgot to take back the 5 cents I gave Hal and had to wait while the stationer chased into the side door of the saloon next door for change for a 5 cent bill.

"Well, finally the bundle was wrapped, tied and addressed and after the youngsters had done their best to break the house checked up the damages:

"A broken evening.

"Several outbursts of temper on both sides of the house.

"Scraps of twine and paper all over the floor.

"A dab of paste on my new leather chair.

"Theodore," she said wearily, as she ran the sweeper over the carpet, "I'll be real glad when this Christmas excitement is over. It's lovely to pick up bargains and cute little things, but this final rush is maddening. I believe I'm getting old."

"I took off my hat to the first sentiment and then tried to settle down to my book, but somehow I didn't give a hang whether the hero won out in his next duel or not. The thought uppermost in my mind was whether that package would reach Seattle in safety, or every one of the seventeen knots in the twine would part company simultaneously."

The junior partner looked thoughtful. Mechanically he leaned over and touched the messenger call. Then he dashed off a note.

"It's a line to Sis," he explained, as he sealed the envelope and drew a large package from the lower drawer of his desk.

"I was up there to dinner yesterday and she suggested that I come back tonight with the presents I intended sending down home. We were to pack the box together. I thought it was a great scheme, but I guess she'd find me no end of a duffer at such work. I'll just send up my stuff with a dollar for express charges and let her do the rest."

When the messenger had departed the junior reached for his hat. "Come on, old man," he said feelingly and gratefully; "we'll lunch at McKean's today, and it's on me. When I think of the—er—fate you've saved me from, I feel that you have several banquets coming."

A Nightmare

Gives point to the fact that excessive or irregular eating disturbs the digestion. Nightmare or night hag has its day time correspondence in the undue fullness after eating, with the belchings and sour or bitter rising so often experienced after too hasty or too hearty eating.

Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures dyspepsia and other diseases of the stomach and its allied organs of digestion and nutrition. When these diseases are cured, the whole body shares in the increased strength derived from food properly digested and perfectly assimilated.

"Four Golden Medical Discoveries" and Dr. Pierce's Cathartic Remedy have been sent to me," writes (Prof.) Pleasant A. Oliver, of Viola, Polk Co., Ark. "Before I used the same mentioned remedies, my stomach was so soundly diseased that a continued feeling of dizziness, I now feel like a new man. Any one in need of medical treatment for nasal catarrh could do no better than to take treatment of Dr. P. I never knew his medicines are all right in this class of diseases."

Sometimes a dealer tempted by the little more profit paid on the sale of less meritorious medicines will offer the customer a substitute as being "just as good" as the "Discovery." It is better for him because it pays better, but it is not so good for you, if you want the medicine that has cured others, and which you believe will cure you.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets cleanse the clogged system from accumulated poisons.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

Prof. Hill McClelland Bell has just been installed head of the college of liberal arts of Drake university.

H. L. Butterfield of Lansing, Mich., has been offered the presidency of the Rhode Island agricultural college.

General Alexander S. Webb has resigned the presidency of the city college at New York. His successor has not yet been selected.

Dr. D. K. Pearsons of Chicago has given \$25,000 to Fairmount college, Wichita, Kan., and made a pledge of an additional \$25,000 provided the college raised \$75,000 by December, 1903.

Judge William Albert Keener, for the last twelve years professor in the Columbia university law school, and until last year its dean, has resigned to devote his time to the practice of corporation law after January 1.

A New Englander, who does not wish his name to be known, has given Oberlin college \$25,000 to form a part of the law fund for the endowment and equipment of the college. The gift was unacknowledged. The same person gave \$25,000 to a previous fund of a like sum.

Prof. William James Rolfe, the well known educator of Cambridge, Mass., has just celebrated his 70th birthday. His oldest son, John Carew Rolfe, has been at the head of the Latin department of the University of Pennsylvania since September.

President Schurman of Cornell university suggests that the new hall of the liberal arts to be erected there be named after Goldwin Smith. President Schurman calls him "the most illustrious exponent of liberal culture who ever sat in the Cornell faculty."

Dr. Frank Wigglesworth Clarke, professor of mineral chemistry in the Colorado university, has been invited by the Philosophical society of Manchester, England, to deliver the Wilde lecture on the origin of the theory of the earth and the propounding of this theory at Manchester by John Dalton.

RELIGIOUS.

Cardinal Smeatto, the archbishop of Bologna, Italy, has forbidden the priests in his diocese to use bicycles.

As there has long been a Union church in Shanghai, arrangements have recently been made for the organization of a similar church in Yokohama.

Rev. Thomas H. Lewis has the rare distinction of being president of two colleges at one time, the Western Maryland and the Adrian of Idaho, Mich.

Rev. Charles Inglis of London, England, is conducting revival services in Baltimore, Md., and is expected to be in nearly every part of the world.

Dr. Lyman Abbott, who has been living at 177 West 11th street, New York City, where he will shortly take up his residence.

There is a movement now on foot to secure from congress legislation to classify army chaplains in two ranks, the seniors to rank as majors and the juniors as captains.

Rev. Dr. J. P. Ingraham of St. Louis is the oldest minister in point of service in that city, having service in the pulpit over fifty years. He was a chaplain in the civil war.

It is rumored that Archbishop Farley has recommended the appointment of Monsignor Mooney, the present general of the New York, as auxiliary bishop of the diocese.

The Gordon Memorial college, established at Hartford through the efforts of Lord Kitchener after his conquest of the following Mooney, the present general of the New York, as auxiliary bishop of the diocese.

Ellish of the Holy Ghost and U. S. has traveled more miles in foreign lands than any other man in the United States last year. He has twice been to Jerusalem from the temple at Shiloh and back, has toured the Orient from end to end and covered a distance of about 31,000 miles. He has baptized 2,000 converts up to the present time.

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Make appropriate gifts. Some very choice ones in mahogany, at

- \$15.50
- 25.00
- 27.50
- 31.00
- 35.00
- up to
- 120.00

China Closets—

\$12.75, \$15.75, \$21.00, \$23.00, \$25.00, \$30.00 and so on up to... 200.00

Buffets—

About 48 patterns to choose from, ranging from \$25.00 to... 160.00

Couches—

42 patterns of couches to choose from. Some extra good values at \$9.00, \$12.75, \$14.00, \$18.00, \$20.00, \$22.00, \$24.00, \$26.00, \$28.00, \$30.00 up to... 75.00

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Choice collection of these, ranging from \$22.00 up to... 125.00

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Golden oak or mahogany at \$7.75, \$9.50, \$10.00, \$11.50, \$12.00 and... 50.00

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Some old colonial reproductions in sewing or work tables. We start them at \$7.50, \$8.00, \$12.00, \$15.00, raising gradually in price up to... 42.00

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Decorative and taborettes. Our own importation. We guarantee to save you at least 25 per cent from our retail price. Some very pretty pieces at \$7.75, \$8.00, \$12.00, \$15.00 up to... 55.00

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It has been our custom for years to carry only the new and novel ideas in bric-a-brac. Goods are imported directly by us and we are now showing hundreds of pretty pieces that are entirely new in the west. We earnestly request your inspection.

Egyptian Work—

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Candle Sticks—

In old brass and wrought iron at \$6.75, \$7.00, \$7.50, \$8.00, \$8.50, \$9.00, \$9.50, \$10.00, \$10.50, \$11.00, \$11.50, \$12.00, \$12.50, \$13.00, \$13.50, \$14.00, \$14.50, \$15.00, \$15.50, \$16.00, \$16.50, \$17.00, \$17.50, \$18.00, \$18.50, \$19.00, \$19.50, \$20.00, \$20.50, \$21.00, \$21.50, \$22.00, \$22.50, \$23.00, \$23.50, \$24.00, \$24.50, \$25.00, \$25.50, \$26.00, \$26.50, \$27.00, \$27.50, \$28.00, \$28.50, \$29.00, \$29.50, \$30.00, \$30.50, \$31.00, \$31.50, \$32.00, \$32.50, \$33.00, \$33.50, \$34.00, \$34.50, \$35.00, \$35.50, \$36.00, \$36.50, \$37.00, \$37.50, \$38.00, \$38.50, \$39.00, \$39.50, \$40.00, \$40.50, \$41.00, \$41.50, \$42.00, \$42.50, \$43.00, \$43.50, \$44.00, \$44.50, \$45.00, \$45.50, \$46.00, \$46.50, \$47.00, \$47.50, \$48.00, \$48.50, \$49.00, \$49.50, \$50.00, \$50.50, \$51.00, \$51.50, \$52.00, \$52.50, \$53.00, \$53.50, \$54.00, \$54.50, \$55.00, \$55.50, \$56.00, \$56.50, \$57.00, \$57.50, \$58.00, \$58.50, \$59.00, \$59.50, \$60.00, \$60.50, \$61.00, \$61.50, \$62.00, \$62.50, \$63.00, \$63.50, \$64.00, \$64.50, \$65.00, \$65.50, \$66.00, \$66.50, \$67.00, \$67.50, \$68.00, \$68.50, \$69.00, \$69.50, \$70.00, \$70.50, \$71.00, \$71.50, \$72.00, \$72.50, \$73.00, \$73.50, \$74.00, \$74.50, \$75.00, \$75.50, \$76.00, \$76.50, \$77.00, \$77.50, \$78.00, \$78.50, \$79.00, \$79.50, \$80.00, \$80.50, \$81.00, \$81.50, \$82.00, \$82.50, \$83.00, \$83.50, \$84.00, \$84.50, \$85.00, \$85.50, \$86.00, \$86.50, \$87.00, \$87.50, \$88.00, \$88.50, \$89.00, \$89.50, \$90.00, \$90.50, \$91.00, \$91.50, \$92.00, \$92.50, \$93.00, \$93.50, \$94.00, \$94.50, \$95.00, \$95.50, \$96.00, \$96.50, \$97.00, \$97.50, \$98.00, \$98.50, \$99.00, \$99.50, \$100.00

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French enamel and gold, \$20.00 \$1.50 up to... \$20.00

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