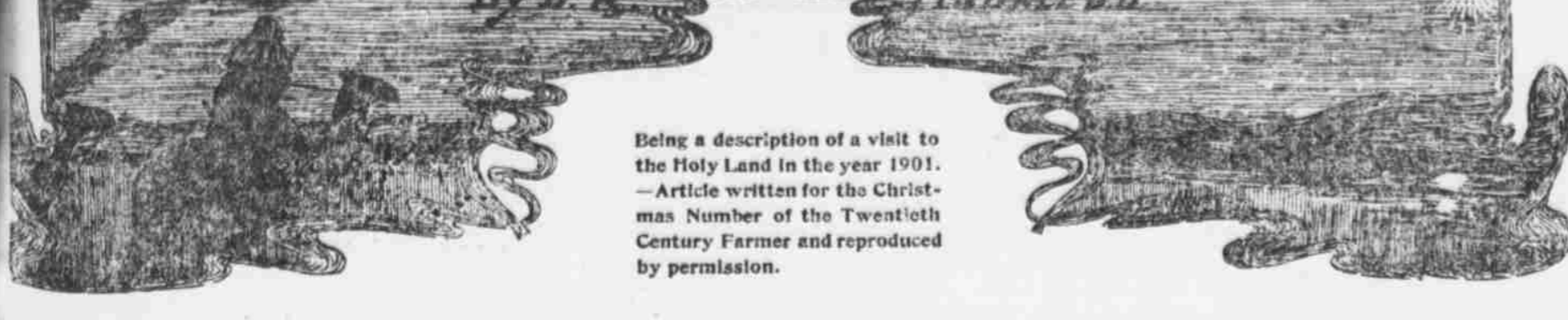


My Journey to Bethlehem



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 to 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 ribbon. The ground was covered with green brussels carpet. Good roads are indicative of civilization, but Palestine has few of the former and little of the latter. This lovely road to Bethlehem was not made by the indolent native Arabs, but by the more enterprising Europeans, many of whom are now traveling over its fine road made me think of the great roads Rome built in many places of its empire, some of which I had recently seen, particularly the Appian way, remains of which are still to be seen after more than 2,000 years of use.

This road to Bethlehem is one of the most sacred and historic of earth. Ruth and Naomi, living in the neighborhood of Bethlehem, had doubtless trodden it many times, as also had Boaz, who married Ruth. Abraham must have taken this route as he journeyed to Jerusalem from the south to offer Isaac on Mount Moriah. Jacob would naturally have taken the same, going from father's home to his Uncle Laban's in the far northeast. David and Solomon must often have journeyed this way, since the former was born at Bethlehem and the latter had famous pools of water somewhat in that direction. The wise men in going from Jerusalem to Bethlehem would take this very road, as did Joseph and the virgin when going to Bethlehem to be taxed, and also when they returned to Jerusalem to present the young child to the Lord in the temple. One has peculiar thoughts and feelings journeying over a road at once so historic and sacred.

A Point of Traditional Interest.

A short distance from Jerusalem we came to where tradition says the "star of the east" reappeared unto the magi, which tradition is not out of harmony with the scripture account of the same. General Lee Wallace in his immortal "Ben Hur" tells of the strange meeting of three men, one each from India, Persia and Greece, on the plains of Arabia, and that a star suddenly appeared to them when they mounted their white camels and one after another started after the star which went before, looking like specters fleeing from their shadows. The nature of this star has been variously viewed by different writers, some holding it was a sort of Jack-o'-lantern, others that it was a conjunction of planets or a real star, while others considered it the holy ghost or a star made by the Lord for that special occasion. Whatever it was, whether nature or revelation, it led to the Christ of history, just as all things were intended to do. We have now reached the grave of Rachel, a plain, arched, house-like tomb by the wayside. This devoted wife was accompanying her husband, Jacob, back to his old home, when she died here en route, and here she was buried. Her wayside monument is a simple slab of stone, this noble woman's body should have to sleep in this lonely place and in a strange land, instead of with the dust of her loved ones at her old home. But it is often the case that people must be buried in a strange land or in the deep blue sea. How tenderly our government cared for its soldiers who died in the Philippines and Cuba, bringing home as many of them as possible to be buried in their native land near their friends and loved ones.

Here is David's well in the suburbs of Bethlehem. Abundance of good water was often an object in Palestine, because of

Packing Christmas Boxes

Greatest Opening of the Season.

"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 out. 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 pastebord 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.

"The bachelor looked puzzled. He 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."

"On my return to the library I found the bachelor looking puzzled. He 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."

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 heavy 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" said Dr. J. C. Renshaw, "I have been cured of my dyspepsia by Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. I have been cured of my dyspepsia by Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. I have been cured of my dyspepsia by Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery."

Sometimes a dealer tempted by the little more profit paid on the sale of less meritorious medicines will offer the case-touser 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 doctors, and which you believe will cure you.

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

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

Sparkling and clear is the city water in New York, but they took thirty-three dead eels out of one main the other day and one was three feet long.

Mrs. Lucy A. Clough of Boston celebrated her ninety-first birthday recently and baked fourteen pies as a contribution to the refreshments for the party.

Romeo Cooper, a fish-seller, the other day found a pearl between his teeth which his parents took to a jeweler and sold for \$50.

The boy that was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Mann of Mansfield, Ohio, on the twenty-fourth in the city of Columbus, was named Santa Claus for whom Santa Claus must make provision.

The oldest armorer in the United States, still in the employ of the government, is Benjamin Hays of Springfield, Mass. He has been working there for more than fifty years.

The city of New York does a little in the medicinal line occasionally. Thus \$132.30 has been received from the net proceeds of an auction sale of a couple held on the new Croton Dam division of the new aqueduct. It has been transmitted to the city chamberlain for the credit of the water fund.

A man was arrested recently near Basking Ridge, N. J., for violating the game laws. The constable who arrested the man called up Justice Bowers by telephone. He had heard the evidence over the wire and fined the offender \$20 and costs, which was paid.

Paul Kruger in his memoirs tells the story of a secretary who was punished for being drunk by tying him to a wagon wheel. During the night 2,000 stars and about 4,000 Zulus attacked the Boer camp and were not driven off till daylight. The secretary slept so soundly that he noticed nothing of the fight, and the next day, when at least a week he looked around in astonishment and asked: "Have you people been fighting during the night?"

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. Pearson 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 \$5,000 to form a part of the law endowment fund for the endowment and equipment of the college. The gift was unconditional. The same person gave \$20,000 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 origin of man, 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 has held similar services in nearly every part of the world.

Dr. Lyman Abbott, who has been living at 47 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 served 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 Bhatnagar 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.

Elizabeth of the Holy Ghost and St. 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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At this season of the year we gather together for the Holiday showing, hundreds of novel furniture pieces that are useful, ornamental and very appropriate for gifts.

RUGS

Thousands of patterns to select from in all sizes from the cheapest domestic rug to the fine silk Oriental rug at all prices from \$1.00 to \$500.00.

Parlor Cabinets—

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, \$16.00, \$18.50, \$21.00, \$23.00, \$25.00, \$28.50, \$33.00 up to... 75.00

Dressing Tables—

What lady will not appreciate one of these pretty pieces as a gift? About 74 patterns in all woods and finishes, ranging from \$3.00 to... 120.00

Davenport Sofas—

Choice collection of these, ranging from \$42.00 up to... 125.00

Music Cabinets—

Golden oak or mahogany at \$7.75, \$9.50, \$12.00, \$15.00, \$18.00 and... 50.00

Sewing Tables—

Some old colonial reproductions in sewing or work tables. We start them at \$7.75, \$9.00, \$12.00, \$15.00, raising gradually in price up to... 42.00

Teak Wood—

cedar and tobacco. Our own importation. We guarantee to save you at least 25 per cent from our retail price. Some very pretty pieces at \$7.75, \$9.00, \$12.00, \$15.00 up to... 55.00

Bric-a-Brac—

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—

Old attractive pieces at \$4.00, \$4.50 and... 4.50

Candle Sticks—

In old brass and wrought iron at \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$4.50, \$5.00, \$5.75 and... 5.75

Vases—

From the far off Finland, something new and very choice at \$1.75 up to... 5.00

Steins

German made steins in abundance at 40c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00 and up

Austrian Ware—

Pretty ornamental and useful. 1.25 to \$1.00

Cloisone—

Our own importation, some exquisite pieces at \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00 and up. One large special lot on special sale to close out at one-third off.

Bronze Figures—

We have a large stock of real bronze figures and ornaments, also pottery figures and busts at \$5. \$1, \$1.50, \$2.00 and up to... \$35.00

Pitchers—

French enamel and gold, \$20.00 to \$1.95 up to... 20.00

Swedish Pottery—

Choice pieces at \$2.35 up to... 6.00

Royal Vienna—

Vases and ornaments, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25 up to... 5.00

Metal Ink Stands—

And ash trays, new and novel, 20c, 30c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00 and up to... 6.00

Wrought Iron Lanterns—

\$1.50 to... 25.00

NOTICE—

Our mechanical window is the most interesting attraction in the city. Do not fail to see it in operation.

Turkish Rockers—

The largest showing and best values we have ever offered in full Turkish genuine leather rockers and chairs; 28 patterns. We start them at \$19.00 and grade them gradually... 73.00

Bookcases—

50 patterns, embracing all styles, designs; some with the lattice work doors, others with the genuine leather glass doors. Some are the low dwarf cases, others medium height. Pretty ones in birdseye maple, veneered oak and golden oak and mahogany mahogany and a vast range of prices from \$3.00 up to... 110.00

Morris Chairs

The most popular moderate priced gentleman's chair and the most comfortable chair for the price. Special holiday showing in all woods and finishes from \$6.00 and all in between... 55.00

Parlor Chairs and Rockers—

We have made special efforts this season to show our parlor pieces and have gathered a superior collection of odd parlor chairs in mahogany, oak and gold finished, upholstered and in wood seat. Pretty odd parlor chairs and rockers, commencing at \$1.95 and at almost any in between price up as high as you wish to go.

Ladies' Desks—

In golden oak, birdseye maple, mahogany, also veneered or Flemish oak, \$4.75, \$5.50 and on up to \$10.00. Some exquisite pieces in house desks, large roomy and handsome.

Library Tables—

\$5.00 and all in between prices up to... 200.00

Open Evenings Until Christmas

CALIFORNIA?

No matter how you want to go, "Southern" or "Scenic" route, in a tourist sleeper or aboard the finest train in America, the Rock Island is the line to take. Don't make any mistake about that. Thro' tourist cars daily from Kansas City and once a week from Omaha to Los Angeles and San Francisco via El Paso. Tourist cars three times a week from Omaha to San Francisco and Los Angeles via the "Scenic" line through Colorado and Utah.

Golden State limited leaves Kansas City daily and offers unrivalled service to all points in Southern California. Berths, tickets and full information at all Rock Island ticket offices, or addressing,

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