

them over with mistletoes, heaping a mound upon their breasts.

Hushed in tense silence was now the throng which was gathered about. Grasping his golden dagger the prince of the Druids with strong and certain stroke slew the two white bullocks, and turned toward the altar. Beneath their covering of mistletoe the youth and the maid awaited death without a murmur. In another moment they knew they would be sent into the Great Beyond to appease the wrath of the gods. The hand of the maid sought that of the youth and was tightly clasped. Both turned their heads to look into each other's eyes. Their lips met. The prince of the Druids approached; two swift strokes with the golden dagger and a crimson stream flowed from the hearts of the youth and the maid, but they stirred not. The high priest dipped his fingers into the life-blood and sprinkled it over the white raiment of the priest and upon the breasts and garments of the Britons who, having received evidence of worthiness, turned homeward one by one. The sacred rite had been performed and the sacrifice made. On the first of the new year the mistletoe which had covered the youth and the maid on the altar was divided by the priests and distributed among the people amid cries of "The Mistletoe for the New Year!"

And from this piteous offering on the altar of ignominy in the name of religion, those who have delved deep into the gruesome past tell us, arose the Christmas significance of the mistletoe.

UNTOLD CHAPTERS OF THE ANCIENT STORY OF ISRAEL

A LARGE engraved stone monument containing inscriptions which point directly to the sojourn of the Israelites in Egypt and the use to which their Egyptian oppressors put their Hebrew slaves, was recently unearthed in Beth-Shan in Palestine. It is thought that the monument was erected by Rameses II, Pharaoh of the Oppression, who built his cities by slave labor furnished by the Israelites. The recent discovery sustains the inscriptions found traced upon a stela of Merneptah, the Pharaoh of the Exodus, and a son of Rameses II, which was unearthed some time ago. The stela tracings contained the information that "Israel is desolated; his seed is not."

This ancient Egyptian hymn, inscribed some three thousand five hundred years ago upon this block of stone, by workmen of Merneptah, includes the first direct reference in ancient Egyptian records regarding Israel's plight. The last strophe of the hymn, which contains twenty-eight lines, read as follows:

The kings are overthrown, saying: "Sakam!"
Not one holds up his head among the Nine B ws.
Wasted is Tehenu. Kheta is pacified.
Plundered is Pekanan (Canaan) with every evil.
Carried off is Askalon. Seized upon is Gezer.
Yenoam is made as a thing not existing.
Israel is desolated, his seed is not.
Palestine has become as a widow for Egypt.
All lands are united, they are pacified.
Everyone that is turbulent is bound by King Merneptah,
given life, like Re, every day.

The Pharaoh of the Exodus had not inherited the military ambitions of his immediate predecessor, Rameses II. Egyptian records have it that his son,

the regent, died suddenly in early manhood, which parallels the Biblical account of the death of the first born of Egypt. These records indicate however that he inherited the fighting qualities of his grandfather and was a conqueror of great renown. The boasts of the triumphal hymn of Merneptah strikingly contrasts with the following text from Miriam's hymn of thanksgiving, as transcribed in the poem of Thomas Moore:

Sound the loud timbrel o'er Egypt's dark sea.
Jehovah has triumphed — His people are free.
Sing — for pride of the tyrant is broken,
His chariots and horsemen, all splendid and brave,
How vain was their boasting! the Lord hath but spoken
And chariots and horsemen are sunk in the wave.
Sound the loud timbrel o'er Egypt's dark sea!
Jehovah has triumphed — His people are free.

A CAUSE FOR THE MOTHERS OF AMERICA

"WAR CANNOT be abolished and permanent peace assured without a thorough change in the minds of the people."

This quotation from a speech delivered fifteen years ago by Ellen Key, the eminent Swedish author, before the Stockholm Peace Conference, contains the most wholesome suggestion ever offered to abolish war permanently and cause the swords to be turned into plow-shares.

Since Ellen Key delivered this speech, the world has seen wars, more terrible than any preceding conflict. Statesmen have used high sounding phrases, staged one international conference after another for the purpose of devising means to end the holocaust and establish permanent peace.

The futility of treaties and terms of peace clothed in language of vague and doubtful meaning, leaving room for endless explanation, speculation, suspicion and distrust, doesn't seem to bother the captains of modern statescraft any more than it bothered their predecessors in any previous age.

The war cry is still on the air, the scenes have only been shifted about. France and Spain are now engaged in war beyond the European border and the Moslem world is fanning into flame every hostile sentiment that can be utilized against the Christian world, from Turkey to India. China is engaged in a serious internal warfare, with Soviet Russia a factor behind one of the warring factions of that country, while Bolshevism is gaining menacing ground among the ignorant and gullable masses of China. The British mandates are anything but satisfactory to the Turks who by degree are being fed up on Bolshevism.

Meanwhile certain selfish financial interests in this country, with an eye for Russian business, are secretly banqueting emissaries of Bolshevik Russia, evidently in the hopes of organizing for business pressure on our government to obtain recognition of the Soviet regime.

That that recognition would render it almost impossible for America openly to counteract the spread of Bolshevism in this country is undeniable. The possibility of coming to a world show-down on Bolshevism would then have a brighter outlook, sufficient to satisfy those who entertain secret desires for more warfare, inasmuch as revolutions and wars of any