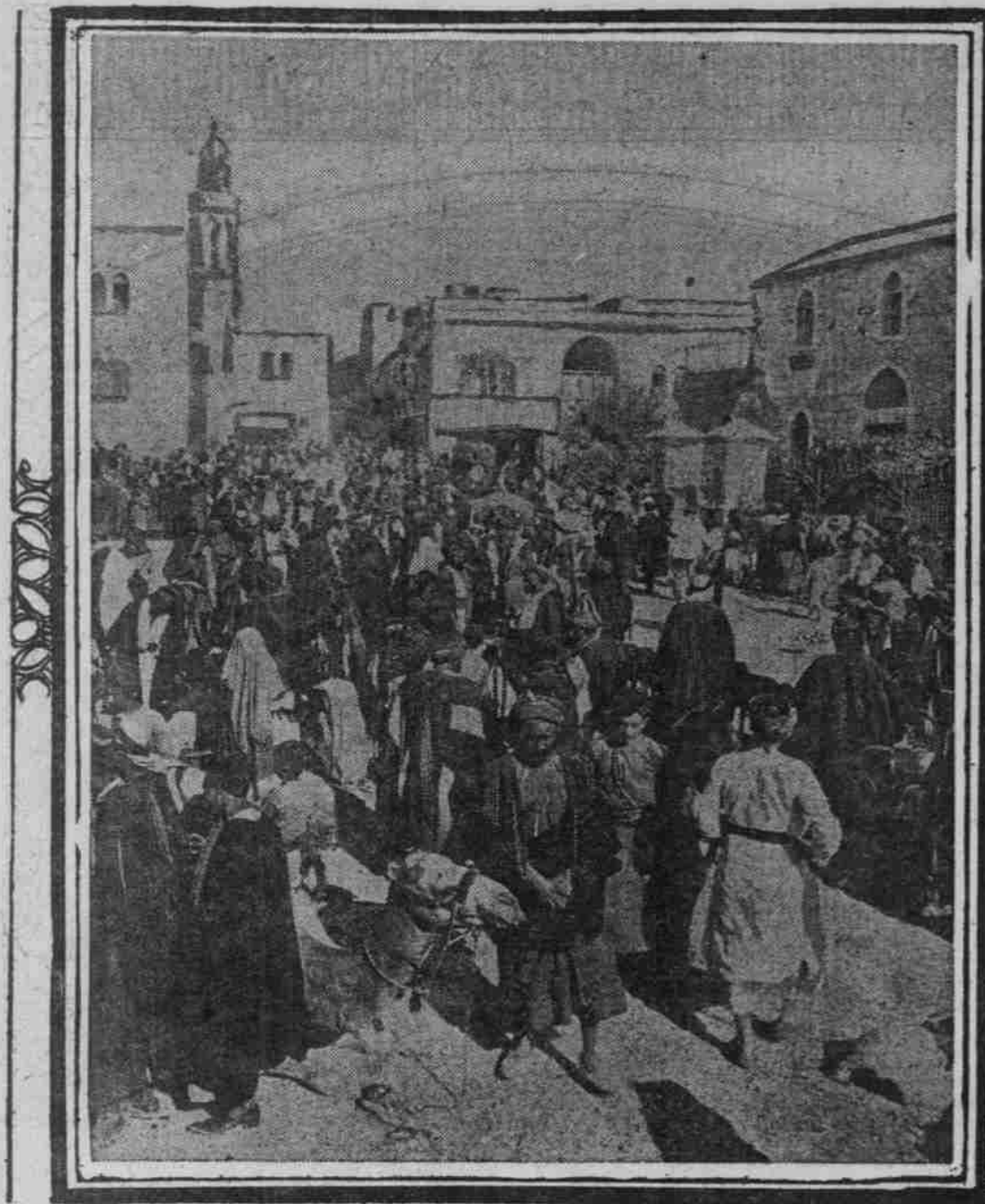


PEACE ON EARTH FINDS HOLY LAND AGAIN UNDER CROSS

Flags of Christian Nations Now Float From Minarets Held by Moslems Since Crusader Days. General Allenby's Armies Win Back Entire Country From River Nile to Cedars of Lebanon.



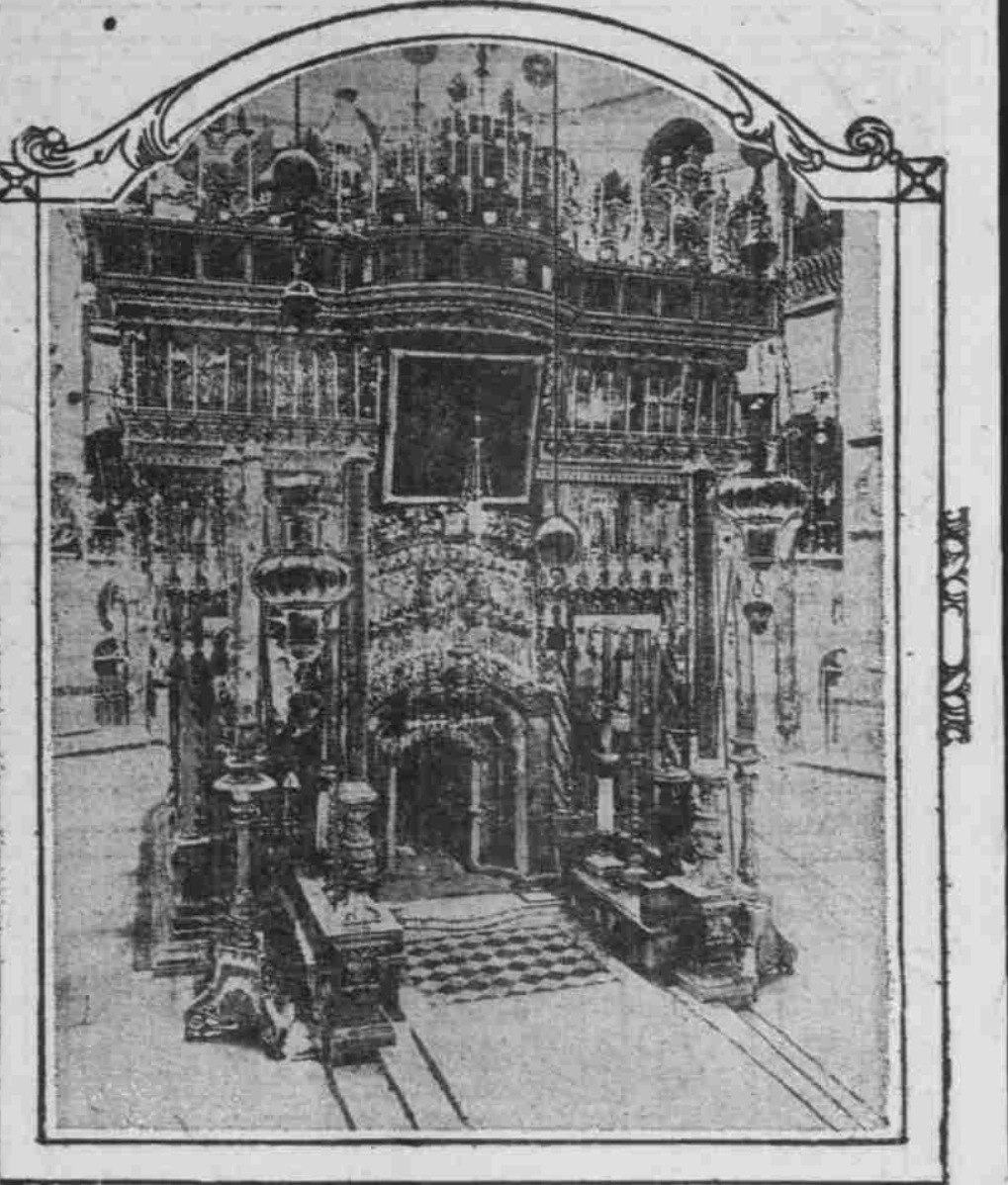
Market scene in the city of Bethlehem in the square in front of the Church of the Nativity (A. I. F. A.)



Overlooking the modern city of Jerusalem as it appears to the tourist of today



To the left—General Sir, Edmund H. H. Allenby, the Deliverer of Jerusalem



The Holy Sepulchre, considered the holiest of all the holy places in the Holy Land (A. I. F. A.)

BY CHARLES W. DUKE.
"For unto you is born this day the city of David a savior, which is Christ the Lord."

CHRISTIAN men and women the world over rejoice this Christmas that the Holy Land, where the Savior was born, lived, taught, bled and died after coming to earth as the herald of "Peace on earth, good will to men," has been entirely reclaimed from Turkish dominion in the great world war now ending. After nearly seven centuries of Moslem control, the sacred places of Palestine and Syria that knew Jesus when he was on earth find themselves this momentous Christmas under the banners of the Christian nations of the earth—the cross triumphant over the crescent—with all the world on the threshold of "peace on earth, good will to men."

There is a new enchantment this year in the Church of the Nativity over there in Palestine that marks the traditional spot where the Son of God was born. Likewise, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the traditional site of Golgotha, carries a new message to the Crusaders who have come up from the far corners of the earth to bring back to Christianity the home of the Saviour. Every mother who mourns for her son lost in battle may gain inspiration from that reclaimed Via Dolorosa along which Christ toiled under the cross on the way to death. Our men have died these last few years that the world might be freed of militarism and go forward to the era of "peace on earth"; and out of the material benefits has come the restoration of the Holy Land to the place it has not occupied since the days of the Crusaders, nearly seven centuries ago.

Capture of Jerusalem.

Hearts were glad at Christmas time a year ago at the proclamation of General Allenby's triumphal entry into Jerusalem as a climax to the campaign that had been carried on from the banks of the Nile, in Egypt, where Joseph and Mary had fled more than 1800 years ago with their Babe to escape persecution at the hands of Herod. The capture of Jerusalem was heralded afar as the augury of impending victory and peace. The city, which had been in the hands of the Turks since the capture of the city by General Allenby and his crusaders had fought so carefully and so humanely that not a sacred spot in the City of David had been marred by any ravaging shells. Jerusalem was spared in its entirety, so far as the allies were concerned, and it was yet to be substantially proved that the Turk mutilated or destroyed the sacred relics before Jerusalem.

But this year Christmas comes as a climax to the more wonderful deeds of the last 12 months—the complete subjugation of the Turk from Jaffa to Aleppo; the total collapse of his cruel domain; his abject surrender to the might of the British and French armies; the capture of Jerusalem, the city of the Jordan, famous in the days of Moses and Joshua, the city through which Christ traveled on his last journey up to Jerusalem. Roman Jericho was the burial place of Herod. It was once the property of Cleopatra, the Egyptian Queen, by whom it was made a veritable paradise. The district about Jericho in these modern days has long been the personal property of the Sultan of Turkey—but now the flags of England, France and the allied nations float over it. In the gospels, Jericho figures in the stories of Bartimeus, Zacchaeus and the Good Samaritan.

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