

IS THROUGHED WITH DEVOU CHRISTIANS

Christmas Vigil to Be Kept in Holy Land by Christians From Everywhere—All Accept Birthplace of Savior.

By Frederic J. Hasikin.

Washington, Dec. 24.—"But thou, Bethlehem Ephraim, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet among the thousands of Judah, thou shalt be raised up to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting, and he shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God, and they shall abide; for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth."

Pilgrims Keep Vigil Tonight.

So wrote the Prophet Micah seven hundred and fifty years before Joseph and Mary came from the Gallileean city of Nazareth to their ancestral home in the city of David to be taxed. There was no room in the inn and the infant Jesus was born in the stable and was laid in a manger. That most tremendous feat in all the history of the human race is annually celebrated by all Christians on the day we call Christmas.

Already Bethlehem is thronged with devout pilgrims from every Christian land, while the inn and hospice and convents of nearby Jerusalem are crowded with those who will keep the Christmas vigil at Bethlehem. No one knows on what day of what month Jesus was born, but it is certain that for many centuries the 25th of December has been observed as the anniversary of the birth of the prince of peace.

Bethlehem Remains the Same.

Everywhere the minds of the people are turning toward that Bethlehem which existed in the day of Herod. It is interesting also to consider Bethlehem, the city of the virgin, which is a small city of about 8000 inhabitants. It is only six miles from Jerusalem, a pleasant afternoon carriage ride. It is the oldest city in all the Holy Land, and one of the oldest in the world, for until the destruction of the Temple at Jerusalem it never has been destroyed. Protected by its insignificance it has escaped unscathed the succession of destructive invasions which wiped out Jerusalem and the greater cities.

It is a remarkable fact that the population of Bethlehem is altogether Christian, there being no Mohammedans or Jews, except some enterprising merchants lately removed from New York and Chicago. It is also remarkable that the people of Bethlehem continue to desire the reputation they have borne for beauty. Bethlehem is a city before Abraham told Rachel was buried, that Ruth married Boaz, that David was born.

Bethlehem's narrow, steep, and slippery streets are not distinguishable from those of any other small Syrian town. But every stranger, even the visitor and every pilgrim goes through them quickly to that fortress like group of buildings which is known as the Church of the Nativity. Unlike the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem there is no willow tree growing in the courtyard. The church is actually the very place of the nativity of the Lord, and that historical truth justifies the inscription within the cave: "Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus Natus est."

The cave of the church is the common property of all Christians and it is the most ancient example of Christian architecture extant. It was completed in the year 330 A. D. by the Emperor Constantine, although begun by his mother, the Empress Helena. Its roof is of stout English oak and was built by King Edward III of England at about the time Christopher Columbus was seeking means for his epoch-making voyage.

Steady Stream of Worshipers.

The chapel of the nativity is a natural cave in the rock which is reached by two steep flights of steps. The cave is decorated, or ornamented, according to one's individual opinion, by scores of paintings, figures of saints, gaudy floral hangings, dirty embroidery, and the like. On the east side of the Grotto is a recess, the roof of which is the uncovered natural rock. In the pavement of this Grotto is set a silver star, which indicates the spot where our Saviour was born, and around it is the inscription quoted above.

Over the star hang 15 silver lamps, constantly burning. Six of these belong to the Greeks, five to the Latins and five to the Armenians. Nearby there is a plain altar which is used by each of these three sects in turn. It is a narrow little room, 25 feet long and only 13 feet wide, into which is constantly crowding a steady stream of devout worshippers. They fall on their faces before the recess in the rock and kiss the silver star in a very frenzied religious emotion.

No Lights, No Ventilation.

There is no light except from the tiny lamps, there is no ventilation at all, and surely there must be miraculous interference in behalf of the devout, the greatest clearing house and distributing station for germs and microbes in all the world. In a nearby grotto, a place most sacred to Roman Catholics, lived for the greater part of his life St. Jerome, who traveled late in the 4th century. This greatest of the Latin fathers devoutly believed in the authenticity of the site of the Grotto of Nativity, and here in the fourth century he lived and wrought his immortal work for the church of Christ.

Over the Grotto are two chapels, in which services are in progress almost continually. The Greeks have one side and the Latins the other, and there are Mohammedan soldiers constantly on guard to prevent trouble.

Souvenir Sellers Destroy Emotions.

Comprised within the fortress like edifice are three convents of the Latin, the Greek and the Armenian churches.

PROSPEROUS TIMES AS SHOWN BY GIFT GIVING GOITAM

Christmas Trade Unusually Brisk and More Expensive Gifts Than Usual Are Purchased—Poor Remembered.

Portland, Or., Dec. 23.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have often wondered why the Oregonian at times makes such a complete fool of itself, seemingly there is no one in its editorial office to protect its editorial columns in times of personal weakness, from placing before the public articles of an unbalanced nature.

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That article reveals the whole story of the Oregonian's advocacy of extreme individualism as opposed to the more modern conception of the nature of government. And yet, it was not even fit to publish along this line, stating as it did the hasty conclusions of one who in the article appears absolutely unqualified to speak upon the subject.

An explanation of the modern cost of living would first look at the following reasons given:

1. Inefficiency of help on the eight hour plan makes production without loss impossible.

2. Again, there is infinite bedeviling of our articles and doctors of all descriptions on the search for bacteria and unsanitary conditions. These get big salaries for stopping food production and making the cost of living high.

3. People demand breakfast foods, sweetened cereals, musical instruments, special teas, etc. (Speaking in general, also, how about the many times greater number of people who never get the choice cuts, never had a carpet because they never could afford to have a home, never went to the opera, never had lace curtains, etc., etc., because for the very true and sufficient reason that they furnish to the property holders, the employers, the public, the "poorish" people, a "poorish" experience, ability worth better living.)

4. People (speaking in general) must have the choicest cuts of meat, elegant tableware, fine linen, heavy carpets, fine furniture, musical instruments, special teas, etc. (Speaking in general, also, how about the many times greater number of people who never get the choice cuts, never had a carpet because they never could afford to have a home, never went to the opera, never had lace curtains, etc., etc., because for the very true and sufficient reason that they furnish to the property holders, the employers, the public, the "poorish" people, a "poorish" experience, ability worth better living.)

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To speak particularly of each one of the mentioned things, let me say that the latter is foolish than the writer of them. It is possible that he is only playing with the public; a sort of a theatrical performer, sitting in his tower and working on the public feelings.

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This illustration of individualism is the secret of the Oregonian's obstructing policy when Mayor Simon was to pass a law to have the laying of water pipes paid for by the commonwealth, as it is done in older communities. Stop it, says our paper of pioneer times, it is good for each citizen to depend upon himself only. Irrespective of the fact that such water pipes are necessary to an individual affair as for the sanitation and well being of the community, yet make him pay. This is a sort of a Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett spirit which the Oregonian naturally possesses. He belongs to the old line spirit sticks, probably will stick, it is mossback in its nature and, like the Indian, it will only pass with the passing of the class. Modernism is unsuited to the primeval spirit.

Why does it not oppose the fire department and the police department; recommend that they be private corporations and that fees be paid when they are used? The same applies to the post office system. If it does oppose a citizen should be strong willed enough, independent and pugnant enough to personally resist injuries by thugs and not be so effeminate as to need a police force. The presence of such naturally opens to the thief the way to prey, to breed chicken fivers in the muscles.

Such advocations are of the near-anarchism type, tending as they do away from social policies and are not recommendations of good citizenship. The man who will act in the ranks will make the best general, as Napoleon knew. The Oregonian, in time of war, and with this nation's safety in danger, could not act under orders but was left to be swayed by a Central American republic style, and there would be turmoil in the ranks of the defenders. In such extreme individualism good citizenship? Not by a long shot.

Under the ostensible protection of the Oregonian, the development of the nation's resources, Pinckney's policy is estimated. His efforts to save the resources placed here for the public use are to be nullified so that development for our scientific work of \$200,000,000, Altgeltner forgetting that the steps of the Oregonian of today are the steps of the Oregonian of tomorrow.

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CENTENARY OF "KIT" CARSON

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 24.—One hundred years ago today, on a farm in Madison county, this state, was born "Kit" Carson, the famous scout, trapper and guide, with whose exploits every American schoolboy is familiar. In the 40 years that have passed since death removed Carson from the stage of life, his fame has increased until he bids fair to become one of the legendary figures of pioneer life in America.

The career of "Kit" Carson began when, at the age of 16, he joined an overland trading expedition to Santa Fe. Before he was 18 he had roamed over a great section of the country between the Rockies and the Pacific coast. For 16 years he supplied himself with everything he ate by means of his rifle. He never visited the settlements or trading posts except to obtain ammunition.

He married an Indian woman in New Mexico while on the life of simplicity followed by the Indians. When his wife died in 1843 he took his infant daughter to St. Louis to be educated. Lieutenant John C. Fremont was then fitted out at St. Louis his first expedition to explore the Rockies, and he engaged Carson as guide. He was also connected with Fremont's second expedition and continued with him during the conquest of California. During the Civil war he rendered valuable services to the United States government, for which he was breveted major general. His death occurred at Fort Lyon, Colorado, May 23, 1868.

MOTHER FINDS HER SON WAS CONVICT

(United Press Leaded Wire.) Los Angeles, Dec. 23.—Not knowing her son had served a term in the Iowa State Penitentiary, Mrs. Mary Franklin the mother of Florian Franklin, who was sentenced to serve 30 years in San Quentin prison this afternoon, for robbing a jewelry store here recently, made a strong plea before Superior Judge William D. Wainwright with the man. As she sat down, she casually picked up the photograph of her son in prison garb, which was lying on the prosecutor's table. She gazed at it a moment.

"Florian, why it's Florian!" she cried. "The low cr. he sank back in her seat and buried her face in her hands. The criminal who had kept his record secret from his mother, hung his head in shame. During the remainder of the trial Dr. Wainwright wept with the man. As she sat down, she casually picked up the photograph of her son in prison garb, which was lying on the prosecutor's table. She gazed at it a moment.

AMERICAN SANITATION CONGRESS IN SESSION

San Jose, Costa Rica, Dec. 24.—Delegates representing nearly all of the countries of the three Americas have gathered here to take part in the fourth International Sanitary Convention of American Republics. The gathering is to have its formal opening tomorrow and the sessions will continue for one week. Foremost among the participants will be Dr. Walter Wyman, who is chief surgeon of the public health and marine hospital service of the United States.

Among the subjects to be discussed at the convention are measures relating to yellow fever, typhoid plague and other diseases, because without it no respect to transmission of yellow fever and malaria, and the necessity of the convention of Washington and other sanitary measures subsequently adopted by the organization with regard to such colonies as they have in America.

Masons Elect Officers.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Forest Grove, Or., Dec. 24.—Holbrook lodge No. 30, A. E. & M., of this city, has elected the following officers for the coming year: James M. Allen, Sr., W. D. D. Bump; Junior W. Ed. Seymour; secretary, A. Ben Mori; treasurer, J. A. Thornburgh; Tyler, M. E. Dilley; senior deacon, V. H. Lumber; Junior deacon, J. W. Hughes; senior steward, J. G. Lennerville; Junior steward, O. E. Higby.

North Coast Road Loses Case.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Prosser, Wash., Dec. 24.—The jury in the case of the North Coast Railroad company against Donald McAlpin came to an agreement yesterday being on floor that the verdict of the jury was as follows: For land taken by the company, amounting to 425 acres, \$1581.25 for damages sustained by reason of the railroad crossing said lands, \$3764.25, making a total of \$5345.75.

City Gets Free Fire Hydrants.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Tillamook, Or., Dec. 24.—The city council received a regular report from the Tillamook water commission. The report shows that the water works are on a paying basis that it has approximately \$2000 cash on hand \$3000 in the sinking fund and no debts outside of the bonds. The commission notified the city council that hereafter no hydrant rent would be charged the city for fire hydrants.

PROFIT AND LOSS ON OREGON FARMS

Farmers Urged to Adopt Methods of Businessmen in Their Work.

By Prof. J. A. Baxell of the Oregon Agricultural College. The old year is about to usher in a new one. What has been achieved during the past year? What were its victories? Its failures? How may we profit next year by the mistakes of the past?

Such questions are naturally forced upon us at this season of the year. There are various ways of answering these questions. Business men generally take advantage of slack trade during the holidays to take stock and to "check up" on the results of the year's work.

It is very unfortunate that so few farmers follow the excellent custom of taking an annual inventory. There is nothing difficult about it. No bookkeeping whatever need be done. No special form need be observed. What is necessary is merely to list what you own and what you owe. A very simple form is shown below:

Financial Statement No. 1—Harris Farm, April 3, 1909.

RESOURCES. Farm, 160 A., with buildings \$ 5,900.00. Produce—200 bu. corn at 50c. \$ 100.00. 150 bu. oats at 45c. 67.50. 200 bu. wheat 85c. 170.00. 20 tons hay at \$5. 100.00. Potatoes and vegetables 50.00. 507.50.

Stock—5 horses, ave. \$100. \$ 500.00. 200 cows, ave. \$40. 800.00. 11 steers, ave. \$12. 132.00. 20 calves, ave. \$15. 300.00. 12 hogs, ave. \$5. 60.00. 100 sheep, ave. \$3. 300.00. 1,959.00.

Poultry—150 chickens at 45c. \$ 67.50. 21 turkeys at 75c. 15.75. 83.25. Implements—1 bay rake, \$15. 15.00. 2 binders, \$15. 30.00. 2 mowers, \$10. 20.00. 300 lbs. drift, \$60. 60.00. 2 wagons, \$110. 220.00. Supplies, \$25. 25.00. 2 sets harness, \$90. 180.00. 1 buggy, \$25. 25.00. 500.00. Household goods \$ 250.00. 300.00. Life insurance \$ 964.86. 964.86. Cash \$ 170.00. 170.00. Total \$12,084.11.

LIABILITIES. Labor unpaid \$ 75.00. Accounts payable 125.15. Mortgages due April 1, 1910 3,000.00. 3,200.15. Total \$ 3,400.15