

WHEN WAS CHRIST BORN?

It is not generally known that there is a grave question as to the actual date of Christ's birth. For many centuries we have celebrated Christmas on Dec. 25 and have not troubled ourselves with chronological inquiries. That course is no doubt reasonable and proper, for the churches have sanctioned it. As a matter of fact, few modern theologians and chronologists agree as to the date of the birth of the Saviour. What most of them agree in, however, is that it did not occur on Dec. 25. A point on which there is still more

unanimity is that Christ was not born in the year which we call 1 A. D. He was born at least four years earlier. The present method of counting the years was introduced by the Roman abbot Dionysius Exiguus in the sixth century and came into general use two centuries later, during the reign of Charlemagne. He placed the Nativity on Dec. 25, 754, A. U. C.—i. e., after the founding of Rome. Nearly all chronologists agree that he was wrong by about four years. Christ, according to them, was born 750 A. U. C., or 4 B. C., if not earlier. Much evidence is offered in support of this. According to Matthew ii, 1, Christ was born in the days of King Herod I, or the Great, who died, according to Josephus, at Jericho A. U. C. 750, just before the Passover. This date has been verified by the astronomical calculations of the eclipse of the moon, which took place on March

Merry Xmas

OUR Store at Fairview offers to our numerous patrons all the tempting Delicacies of the Holidays, and to all our friends we wish to present the Compliments that the season inspires. To all alike we wish **A Merry Christmas.**

J. M. Davis & Son
Fairview, Ore. Phone 228

13 in the year 750 A. U. C., a few days before Herod's death. Allowing two months or more for the events between the birth of Christ and the murder of the innocents by Herod, the nativity must be put back at least to February or January, 750 A. U. C. or 4 B. C.

The star which guided the wise men has been brought into service in the attempt to fix the birth of Christ with scientific accuracy. Between 1603 and 1604 the great astronomer Kepler observed a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, which was made more luminous by the addition of Mars in the month of March, 1604. In the autumn of the same year he observed near the planets Saturn, Jupiter and Mars a new fixed star of uncommon brilliancy.

It was blazing and glittering "like the most beautiful and glorious torch ever seen when driven by a strong wind" and seemed to Kepler an "exceedingly wonderful work of God."

He thought that this phenomenon might lead to the determination of the date of Christ's birth. By careful cal-



THE CHRIST CHILD.

ulation he ascertained that a similar conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, with the later addition of Mars and probably some extraordinary star, took place repeatedly between the years 747 and 748 A. U. C.

The discovery of Kepler was almost forgotten until the nineteenth century, when it was independently confirmed by several eminent astronomers, among them Schubert of St. Petersburg, Ideler and Bencke of Berlin and Pritchard of London.

The majority of theologians agree that the date of Christ's birth cannot be fixed accurately from the New Testament or from any other source.

E. J. Hesseltine
The Store at Terry

Presents his compliments and best wishes of the Holiday Season to all the old customers of his store and to all prospective new ones and requests a continuance of past favors

E. J. Hesseltine
Successor to J. M. DAVIS
TERRY, ORE. PHONE 227

GREETINGS

Christmas is nearly here.

We can almost hear the Merry Christmas Bells ringing and see the happy faces of young and old as they gather around the tree.

**A Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year to all**

ED. AYLSWORTH
Gresham's Leading Clothier



Free! Free!

A Great Big Beautiful Doll!

TO THE GIRL

and Fine big Rubber Ball Shooting Gallery, to the boy,

guessing closest to the number of beans in a glass jar displayed in our window. No one knows the number of beans the jar contains. Every 10c purchase, or over, entitles you to a guess.

Contest begins Saturday, Dec. 14. and closes Dec. 24

See Window Display

Headquarters for

Holiday Goods

Xmas Candies
Child's Dining-room Sets
Child's Dressers
Child's Tables
Child's Swings
Games of all kinds
Dolls to suit all

Dishes of every kind
Handkerch'fs that will please
Ties to please the men
Big line of pictures
Xmas decorations
Hand painted china
Xmas cards, per doz., 10c

Novelty Shop

W. R. BIDDLE, Prop.

POWELL ST.

GRESHAM, ORE.



Round Oak Song

(Tune—"Beulah Land.")

I've reached the land of mud and rain,
The ROUND OAK RANGE is to my gain
And now that I've reached the spot
Upon this Range I shift my pot.

I am not tired, I am not cross,
The Round Oak Chief is still my Boss
My bones don't ache, my joints don't swell
The Round Oak cooking preserves me well.

What other Ranges fail to do
The Round Oak Chief will do for you
While others do not stand the test,
The Round Oak Chief is still the best.

ROUND OAK HEATERS stand the test
Ask your GRANDFATHER, he knows the best.
They took the prize for years gone by.
Why not have one for you and I?

Although you do not have the cash,
For Carlson's store, just make a dash.
He will show you there and then
The ROUND OAK GOODS, on that depend.

(and)

Soon the east wind will be howling
And the air full of sleet.
Then you'll need some of our woolen Blankets
To cover up your feet.
For we have the finest line
On either side the street,
And our prices on every hand
Are most impossible to meet.

R. R. CARLSON

Home Furnisher

Gresham, Ore.

Beaver Acetylene Light

GRESHAM, OREGON



The ONLY Acetylene Light Plant
Made in Oregon

Patronize Home Industry

Every Plant Guaranteed

**For Lighting and Cooking
it Excels Everything**

C. R. KELLER, Manager

JOHN BROWN, Sec.-Treas.

A Perfect Christmas.

Let us try to imagine what a scene the world would present if all men the earth around could have and enjoy one perfect Christmas—one day in which the Christmas spirit should manifest itself in every human heart in all its happiest, truest, largest meaning. What a foretaste of the millennium such a day would be! What sorrows would be mitigated, what misery assuaged, what enmities, jealousies, bitternesses, would be buried never to be renewed! Such a Christmas even for one day would be a source of immeasurable blessing to the world. It could not fail to break the crust of human selfishness beyond restoration and set many springs of kindness and good will flowing, never to cease. While such a Christmas, even for a day, can

exist only in the realm of dreams, it is within our power to make each recurring Christmas measurably like it by translating our wishes into deeds, by making the best of our means and opportunities to make life a little brighter and a little sweeter for those around us and a little nearer like the life we could truly wish for all mankind.—Leslie's Weekly.

The Joy of Christmas.

Religion is not an austere thing. It is all joy the moment we hear the Christmas angels chorusing until we swing into glory to the music of the redeemed throng about the throne. The service of Christ is gladness and peace. He means that his every disciple should live in a perpetual Christmas.