



Lesson XIII. December 19, 1915.

The Song of the Angels—Christmas Lesson—Luke 2: 1-20.

Commentary.—I. Christ born in Bethlehem (vs. 1-7). The fulness of time had come when Christ was to appear on earth. He was to be born in Bethlehem, as prophesied by Micah (5: 2), out of the house of Joseph and Mary was in Nazareth. The arrival of Caesar Augustus that all the citizens of his realm should be enrolled in their ancestral cities, made it necessary for Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem, for they were both of the house of David. While they were there Christ was born. The number of strangers in Bethlehem on this occasion was so great that Joseph and Mary were obliged to seek lodgings in the inn, or caravansary, which is a large, substantial, square building, surrounded by a lofty wall. Passing through a strong gateway, the guests enter a large court, the sides of which are divided into numerous arched compartments open in front. In the center is a spacious raised platform used for sleeping upon. About the outer wall and the compartments are wide vaulted arcades extending around the entire building where the guests of burden are placed. It is a very doubtful affair, the cavern under the Church of Nativity being the place of Christ's birth, although tradition declares that it is. It is clear that near there Christ was born. Bethlehem is now a city of ten or twelve thousand inhabitants, and it has continued its existence throughout all these centuries. Great numbers of Christians visit Bethlehem every year to see the locality where Christ was born and where the angel of the Lord made the announcement to the shepherds.

II. The announcement of his birth (vs. 8-14). Shepherds abiding in the field—As in the time of David, the raising of sheep was an important industry, so also in Christ's time it was a common occupation, and even now shepherds and their sheep are to be seen almost everywhere. Keeping watch over their flock by night—it is still common for shepherds to spend the night in the fields with their flock. The people of Palestine live in villages and not in the open country as in America, and they often care for their sheep in the fields at night throughout the year, protecting them from wild beasts and from robbers. In December the grass is green and the weather pleasant in that country, and the season was not an argument against Christ's birth having taken place in that month. An angel of the Lord—This heavenly messenger was sent on an important errand. It was to make the announcement to the world of Christ's birth. Many times from the announcement of Zacharias to the ascension of our Lord and Saviour to earth as messengers from heaven. Glory of the Lord—A heavenly radiance appeared over the angel and enveloped the shepherds. This was the symbol of the divine presence, power and holiness as shown by the Jews. They were awestruck—They were awestruck completely by surprise. The appearance of the angel was so unusual and the scene so startling that they were awestruck.

10. Fear not—Words of encouragement that have been spoken again and again to God's people and to those who desire to become such. "Fear not" is an exhortation repeated upward of fifty times in the Bible. Good tidings—Good news producing "great joy." To all people—The gospel is for all nations in all ages. It came first to the Jews, but its blessings are of all mankind. Unto you—Jesus came as the shepherd of the world. He came to all the world. City of David, Bethlehem, Christ—The anointed One, the Messiah, Lord—The King of kings and Lord of lords. 12. A sign—that they were making a true announcement. Ye shall find—they could recognize the child Jesus from His clothing and His position. Swaddling clothes—in the East it is the custom now, as it was in those days, to wrap the infant round and round with a long strip of cloth three or four inches wide, from the neck to the feet. This announcement came to the shepherds as they were attending to their everyday duties. An angelic visit was received by Zacharias while he was serving in the temple.

13. Suddenly—Immediately after the announcement made by the angel to the shepherds. A multitude—Christ's advent to earth was of infinite importance and was attended by the presence of heavenly beings. The whole host of heaven was praising God, not merely that portion of it which was visible to the shepherds. They came to do honor to Him who took upon Him human nature that He might redeem and save humanity. Praising God—The angels understood something of the work that Jesus was to accomplish and they praised God for this glorious manifestation of His infinite love. 14. Glory to God in the highest—Honor and praise are ascribed to Him who is the source of all excellence, who dwells in the highest heaven. Peace is declared as coming to men, as between God and man and between man and man. The angels understood the significance of Christ's coming to earth. They ascribed glory to God, and knew that men were to be blessed through Christ's ministry among them. More clearly than we can perceive, it did them realize how much was involved in His advent as the Babe of Bethlehem. We are under obligation to join the angels in praise for Christ's incarnation.

III. The shepherds' visit to the child Jesus (vs. 15-20). 15. Let us now go—The gracious words of the angel, and the chorus of the heavenly host had deeply impressed their minds and they were determined to learn more of the blessed news of the coming of Christ. Such a message as they had received called for immediate action. The angels had made known to them from God, 16. came with haste. They were seeking Jesus. They were eager and determined. Such a search for Jesus is always

successful. 17. made known—The events were so full of promise and blessing that they would have done wrong in not telling the good news. The saying—That Christ the Lord, the Saviour, was born, and that peace and good will toward men had been proclaimed. 18. Wondered—The message appeared profoundly to the hearers. The hope of the ages was being realized. The expectation of the nations was being fulfilled. The people did not at the time comprehend the full import of the good news. They thought it meant national deliverance and prosperity, and no doubt had vague notions of spiritual blessings, but the news then published is being borne down the ages and carried to the remote regions of the earth, and yet it causes those who receive it to wonder even to-day.

19. Pondered them in her heart—Mary must have thought of the words of the angel for her (Luke 1: 26, 33), and of the words of the angel to her husband (Matt. 1: 21), and with the message just received from the lips of the shepherds, she had sufficient reason for pondering them. She was unable to foresee all that was to come upon her and her child, but she knew there was a great future for him. 20. The shepherds returned—They received the message, believed it and were filled with holy gladness. As the heavenly messenger had come to them, while attending to their ordinary work, so when the supernatural manifestation was over, they returned to their usual occupation. God made shepherds as agents in carrying the wonderful message, instead of entrusting the duty to kings or even to priests. The humble station of Mary, the manger cradle, the shepherd messengers, all attest the humility of the Prince of peace, while the angelic announcements and the chorus of the heavenly host declare his exalted origin. We can profitably let our minds dwell upon the whole scene of the angel's announcement, the adoration of the angels, the wonderful application of the heavenly abode of Joseph, Mary and the Christ child, the gladness of the shepherds and the spread of the glorious news. Questions—Where was Jesus born? Where was the home of Joseph and Mary? To whom did the angel announce the birth of Christ? Who joined the angel after this announcement? What words did this company say? After the angels returned to heaven what did the shepherds do? What did the shepherds do after they had found Jesus? How were those who heard the report of the shepherds affected? What were the shepherds doing on their return?

1. Ascribed glory to God. 2. He proclaimed peace to men. 3. Ascribed glory to God. While men were moving from all quarters in response to the decree of Caesar Augustus, the angels of heaven were gathered around the world's greatest event. The emperor's object was to fill his coffers. The purpose of God was to fulfill his ancient promise. A minute prophecy, so many times imperiled in the course of centuries, was at last to be fulfilled. The words of God for the overthrow of the action of men for high and noble more than they anticipated. The decree of the Roman emperor was subordinated to the decree of the King of kings. Angels had roiled by since the first promise of a Messiah was given. Saints had waited. Types had prefigured the event. Prophecy had foretold his coming. When all preparation was complete, the divine prophecy was fulfilled. Christ's coming was the pivotal event of the world's history. It was only in the Babe of Bethlehem that the whole of God's character shone forth, that men might not only find him and bow before him, but trust in him and love him as one who would be content with the feelings of their infirmities. The feeling of the angels and the listening ears were all in unison. It was to men lowly and obscure, without worldly place or power that the first incarnation was made. Angels announced his advent with strains of highest rapture. They sang of Christ and the salvation which he came into the world to accomplish. The Son of God became incarnate that he might reveal the Father; that he might exemplify human nature; that he might take away sin and make man partaker of the divine nature. The world was little affected by this event so essential to its welfare.

11. Proclaimed peace to men. There was no doubting the angel's message. The music of that night was not a dirge but an anthem. There was no dissenting voice in that harmony. The song consisted in a proclamation of peace and good will, conditions perfectly consistent with the glory of God. Sin had created war in every heart; between man and man; between man and God. At the bidding of the angel the shepherds left their flocks and hastened to Bethlehem to verify the good tidings. They had received the heavenly manifestation with becoming reverence and awe. They accepted the message as the first sermon of the ages of dispensation. Their consternation ended in exultation. They praised God for the realization of what they had been told. Though unlettered men, they could speak from experience. They had heard the voice from heaven. They had seen the young child. They were witnesses to the reality of Christ's humanity and the perfection of his example. The fact became the self-evidencing power of divine love. It was an event of supreme interest in the world, outweighing all other events of history, having to do with all time and all men. They verified the vision like earnest and consistent men. They went in the spirit of earnest consecration, never yielding the correctness of the information given through the ministry of angels. They not only tested and proclaimed the truth concerning Christ, but they exemplified it in their conduct. God knew whom to choose when he opened heaven—warm-hearted keepers of sheep. It was personal experience that fitted them for service and inspired them with true enthusiasm. Their hearts were touched with love for the new-born King and their souls were fired with the spirit of true brotherhood. They diligently improv-

ed the light they received. They freely confessed their faith and joy before men. An extraordinary privilege had been granted them. It entered them in future toil. A new day had dawned in the world's history. The old era had passed; the new had begun. Only angels knew what a revelation had been wrought by the power of God. With Mary the current of her soul flowed far too deep to give expression to its emotions. She had received the direct personal living revelation of the purpose of God. She had acknowledged the salvation which she had prepared through her for his people. She treasured every new unfolding with modest womanly discretion. T. R. A.

THE POULTRY WORLD

THE BEST TABLE FOWL.
The white variety of the cornish family differs from their dark brothers only in color of feathers and the beak or bill. Where the darks have a "horn-colored" bill, the whites have a yellow or orange bill to match the legs. The males will weigh from 10 to 12 pounds and the females from 7 to 8, and while these are the average weights, many will run as high as 14, and with the females better than 10. Probably no breed is so popular as the Cornish. They have a small "anti-freeze" pea comb and their feet are not encased in scales, making them an ideal fowl for any climate, and they will not be found during cold weather or at high altitudes. They are very warm in the sun, all wrapped up in a pillow of feathers, as do most of the so-called "winter" breeds. While Cornish is most likely the heaviest of all white breeds, with a clean (unspotted) yellow or orange legs, which makes it a very desirable sire for crossing on other breeds to improve weight for meat purposes. It not only increases invariably pray for pullets, white Cornish is the one breed where cockerels are the most profitable. It is especially profitable when sold to cross on other varieties, as the demand for excellent table fowl is constant. It is not necessary with Cornish, as with some other varieties, practice castrating, as it is especially then that some powerful disinfectant be used, such as zinc sulphate, a coaltar product, which will remove the musty odor and destroy the germs of disease. Damp bedding of no kind must be allowed to remain in the pens.

IN THE PIG YARD.
One of the most effectual means of keeping a herd from worms is to keep the surrounding country. It is in fostering filth in the barn, yard or pasture that these parasites breed. But if cleanliness is observed, and an effort made to keep the place dry, and if the pastures are frequently changed, there will be less danger of the pigs becoming seriously affected.

WORMS IN THE PIG YARD.
Worms seem to be a pretty general affliction in young pigs. They measure from 4 to 10 inches in length, and keep the intestines of the pigs in a constant state of irritation. It is food loss to endeavor to fatten such pigs as long as the worms remain, as the latter consume, practically, all the nutriment in the food. A simple remedy is a teaspoonful of turpentine daily to every 100 pounds of live weight, fed in slop milk. The turpentine should be continued for three days in succession. This remedy will prove more effectual if the pigs are kept off feed 12 hours before administering it. Where it is necessary to use the same quarters for hogs, it is a good practice to plow up some of their lots in the spring and sow in rape. The rape will make quick growth, and the plowing and cultivating, and sowing to sow the seed will turn under the larvae of the worms, and also make the quarters more sanitary. Worms are more disastrous to young pigs and shoats before they attain weight of about 75 pounds than afterwards, and they should have attention until they have a good start and are able to counteract to a small extent the action of the worms in their system.

NOTES.
An entirely new use for sugar beets is being considered and experimented with. It is reported successful in France—that is the making of flour. This sugar beet flour is estimated to contain something like 82 per cent. of pure nutriment. Dicks live 15 to 25 years; cattle, 25 years; the horse, 25 to 30 years; the eagle, 30 years; the stag, 35 to 40 years; heron, lion and bear, 50 years each; the raven, 80 years; elephant, turtle, parrot, pig and carp, 100 years each. One drop of gasoline will kill a wasp instantly, but if applied to a bee or a fly it will be ineffective. Statistics show that the egg crop of the United States for one year amounted to \$20,000,000. The total value of the gold, silver, wool and sheep produced in America during the same year amounted to but \$272,434,315, being \$7,655,985 less than the earnings of the poultry industry. The same year the entire sugar production reached but \$20,000,000; the wheat crop, \$229,900,000; the cats crop, \$78,984,900; wine, \$186,529,032; tobacco, \$35,573,223; cotton, \$259,161,640. The poultry earnings, too, are many millions greater than the combined results from the hay, straw, flax, millet, cane, broom corn and castor beans. Millet leaves the soil in better shape to produce a crop of wheat. At the North Dakota Experiment Station it has been found that three crops of wheat following millet produced 16 1/2 bushels more wheat than the three crops of wheat following wheat. When the millet was manured the next three crops of wheat were increased 26 1/2 bushels, or ten bushels of wheat for the manure.

MAY NOT ALLOW HER RETURN.
London, Cable—A peculiar case over the attention of the officials here. A woman and her daughter wish to go to Canada. The daughter, aged only 23, married some little time back a Canadian soldier who has now been invalided as his parents in Canada. He declares she is not his wife, and she is entitled to go there still remains the question whether the mother should be allowed to go also. Some people are quick to take offense who don't know what to do with it.



FARM ANIMALS IN WINTER.

Now that the cold and dreary days are about at hand, it is fitting that the farmer turn his attention to the comforts and discomforts of the young animals in his care. If the lots, floors or beds become wet, and the pelts of lambs, pigs and calves gather moisture indoors and out, the feeble animals become chilled, and the body warmth of even the robust is taxed, so that a part of the feed goes only as so much fuel to maintain the normal temperature. This increases the food of support and lowers the amount to be directed to increase of growth.

Dark, damp days and dark, damp pens or beds are not only a tax on the vitality of the young animals, but also on the feed bill. The dark, damp pen not only breeds discomfort and taxes vitality, but it improves the conditions in which disease germs multiply and thrive. Dampness and dirt favor the rapid increase of microbes, a prolific source of disease.

Dryness checks the development of these microbes, but it does not destroy them. They only lie dormant, ready to renew their increase as soon as the needed moisture arrives. The dreaded cholera germ may lie dormant for months in a dry place. Sunlight destroys disease germs. It is essential to life and health.

So it ought to be clear to every farmer that the best method of keeping live stock in a healthy condition during the winter is to allow plenty of sunlight to enter the stables and pens, and allow the animals to be out in the open air enough to invigorate and cheer them. There are rainy periods during which there is very little, if any, sunlight, and when dampness increases in pens and beds, and conditions favorable to microbes and disease trouble us. It is especially then that some powerful disinfectant be used, such as zinc sulphate, a coaltar product, which will remove the musty odor and destroy the germs of disease. Damp bedding of no kind must be allowed to remain in the pens.

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used for the permanent production of crops by draining and application of the proper fertilizer. Potash and phosphoric acid are the mineral fertilizing elements which give the best returns. Some heavy manure also causes a large crop increase in most cases. Except on distinctly acid deposits, lime does not, as a rule, give good results. Deposits are not suited to the direct production of crops may be used to reinforce manure either in composting or as a stable litter. In this way the manurial value of the mulch is increased, while the valuable ingredients of the mixture may be materially enhanced by the addition of phosphatic material.

The dairy cow is a great food producer. It is not at all necessary to kill her to utilize the feed she produces. A beef steer must be slaughtered to get the benefit of the feed he consumed, but the dairy cow produces milk and butter-fat and a calf every year during her life. We need more dairy cows.

The Missouri Experiment Station has found by investigation that the red mould in silage is due to a lack of moisture. Very often silage is put away too dry. Moulds develop in much greater abundance where the silage is only slightly moist. The station does not think that the mould causes death among stock.

HUN DESERTERS TELL SAD TALE

Germany Who Escaped to New York Plead for Permit to Stay.

Say Thousands of Fellows Have Fled to Holland.

New York Report—The Times says: Wilhelm Knapp and Albert Ohlhor, the German army deserters, who arrived here as stowaways last Friday on the Holland-American freighter Osterdyk from Rotterdam and were sent to Ellis Island, appealed for help yesterday to get into the country.

The immigration authorities have ordered them sent back, and they have appealed to Washington. Knapp is forty-three years old and a carpet weaver. Ohlhor is a locksmith, twenty-two years old. Both seem intelligent and have a good idea of the country they fought over up till October 15, when they escaped into Holland, where they say there are nearly 4,000 German army deserters.

Knapp, who pleads in German for his comrade and himself, in a letter to The Times tells of hardships in the trenches, with little food and many hard knocks. His story is much like that of Karl Schulz, who came here on the Noordduin, as a stowaway on Thanksgiving Day, and was afterward admitted.

"When the war began," Knapp said, "we were all fired with patriotism because we thought the Fatherland was being attacked, but afterward we found that our lives were being sacrificed for the benefit of the war lords. On fighting days our rations consisted of a loaf of rye bread, with water every twenty-four hours, and after fourteen days in the trenches we had to do exercises all day when we came out. It is hard to present arms, do parade steps and look unconcerned when shells are exploding around you. I have seen officers, under warm shelter, lying in bed while wounded soldiers lay outside on straw. That is no comradeship. Many men are killed on their shoulders, and from their one leg one after another, and they all looked alike to him except that it rained harder at Charleroi than during the affair at Maubege.

When Emperor William visited the trenches the soldiers were not allowed to turn to look at him, Knapp said. With regard to the Crown Prince the deserters had nothing to say, but shrugged their shoulders. Knapp and Ohlhor met Schulz in the Boomies at Rotterdam a month ago, and when they told him they had deserted he ran away. Both have gained weight on the Ellis Island diet and are contented with the food and quarters, except that it is too warm for them after living in the trenches more than a year. Knapp says if he can get out and find employment he will send for his wife.

HORSES NEEDED

Britain Must Do Something to Aid the Breeders.

London, Cable—The committee appointed to consider the question of the supply of army horses has issued a report showing that the inadequate supply of horses still presents a very urgent problem. The committee draws the conclusion that the present position is a "menace to the state," and they indicate a number of recommendations to the Board of Agriculture, intended to give the authorities the needful power to meet the shortage. Earl Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, in a letter to the committee last July, said that the government already had expended \$6,000,000 in America for horses, and he especially emphasized the main difficulties was in securing animals of good quality. He urged some scheme of aid for breeding.

BUTTER CARDS

Germany Will Issue Ones Similar to Those for Bread.

Berlin, Cable, via London—The Federal Council has authorized municipalities to issue butter and fat cards, similar to the bread cards which have been in use for months to regulate the consumption of these articles. The ordinance under this provision, which becomes effective Jan. 1, also contains regulations under which it will be possible to reserve the cheaper butter and fats for the poor. The commission organized by the council to equalize distribution of the butter supply is authorized to require large producers to sell part of their output, up to fifteen per cent. of the total, for export to municipalities where shortages exist.



TORONTO MARKETS

Table with columns for various market items and their prices. Includes items like Eggs, Butter, Lard, etc.

Table with columns for various market items and their prices. Includes items like Beef, Pork, Mutton, etc.

Table with columns for various market items and their prices. Includes items like Hides, Skins, Wool, etc.

Table with columns for various market items and their prices. Includes items like Wheat, Corn, etc.

Table with columns for various market items and their prices. Includes items like Flour, etc.

Table with columns for various market items and their prices. Includes items like Lard, etc.

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Advertisement for 'MAGICAL BAKING POWDER' by E.W. Gilbert. Includes text about the product's quality and availability, and a small illustration of a person baking.