

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST-CHRIST-MAS LESSON LUKE 2: 8-20.

Commentary-I. Christ's birth aninced (vs. 8-14).,8. 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 sheppherds 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 flocks. 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 would be no argument against Christ's birth having taken place in that month. 9. 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 to Zactorias to the asearth as messengers from beaven. Glory of the Lord-A heavenly radfance appeared about the angel and enveloped the shepherds. This was the symbol of the divine presence. power and holiness as shown by the scriptures. They were sore afraid-They were taken completely by surprise. The appearance of the angel was so unusual, and the scene so startling, that they were awestruck. but they were not left long in that condition.

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 To all people—The gospel is for all nations in all ages. It came for all mankind. 11 Unto you-David—Bethlehem. Christ—The an-ointed 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 would recognize the child Jesus from his ciothing and his position. Swaddling eigthes-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 clothes three or four inches wide, from the neck to the toes. This announcement came to the shepherds as they were attending to their every-day duties. An angelic visit was received by Zacharias while he was serving in the temple as a priest.

advent to earth was of infinite importance and was attended by the presence of heavenly being. "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 and save humanity. Praising God-The angels understood something of the work that Jesus was to accompaish 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 man. The angels understood the significance of Christ's coming to earth. They ascribed the glory of God, and knew that men were to be blessed through Christ's ministry among them. More clearly than we perceive it, did they realize how much was involved in his advent as the Babe of Bethiehem. We are under obligation to join the angels in praise for Christ's incarnation. We acknowledge his deity and rejoice in him who "became flesh and dweit among us."

(vs. 15-20). 15. Let us now go-The i othe only adequate interpretation of gracious words of the angel, and the the great event at Bethlehem. chorus of the heavenly host had deeply impressed their minds and they yere determined to learn more of the bigged news of the coming of Christ. Such a message as they had received called for immediate action. The Lord hath made known—They accepted the angel's words as a message 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 appealed 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 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. The blessings that come to those who are saved are incom-

dered them in her h

say? After the heaven what did the Whom did they find? How were those who he the shepherds doing on their ret PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic—The birth of Jesus. I. How Jesus came.

II. Why Jesus came. I. How Jesus came. The birth Jesus was the most stupendous ever in human history. Toward it the cu rents of history converge, and fre they diverge. With it commend visible processes of redemption. It had been eternally purposed and cov ed, and was foretold in Eden. The place and manner had been definitely prophesied centuries earlier, and pre-announcement was made to his virgin mother. It was also revealed to Joseph, his reputed father. Universal interest centred in the event. For it the world waited in breathless expectation. The advent was heralded 'by throngs of rejoicing angels, and wise men journeyed from distant lands to hail Him who was born King. The incarnation is as philosophical as it is scriptural. A sacred miracle underlies the Christian system. The mysterious union of two natures, each in perfection, is inexplicable, but is emphatically declared The human was on the mother's side, the divine by the mysterious act of the Holy Ghost. first to the Jews ,but its blessings are He made "in himself of twain one new man, so making peace": uniting Jesus came as the shepherds' Saviour, in himself the apparently irreconcilas he came to all the world. City of able interests of oftended justice, assaulted holiness and trancgressors, hecoming thereby the "daysman" who could put His hands on both. John. the disciple in closest sympathy and deepest fellowship with the Master, leads us to the most profound depthe of the great truth in the first chapters of his Gospel, and his First Epistle. "The Word was God." "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. full of-grace and truth. "In all things it behoved him to make like unto his brethren." The method of redemption was not a choice of alternatives. There was but one solution to the stupendous moral problem. An incarnation of Deity o the plane of the transgressors was a necessity; and necessary or poseible only for the pur- of evil.

13. Suddenly—immediately after the poses of redemption. At the manger "Some say, that ever gainst the jolly plump old fellow busy at his charle of Bethlehem "mercy and season comes work. But though sleep always bepeace have kissed each other." Jesus descended to the lowest level of earthly estate that He might bring light and hope into the deepest human necessity. Himself spotless, in His ancestry appear the names of the sinfulest and the noblest. In His humanity human nature that he might redeem mingled the blood of Rahab and of Ruth. In His public minictry He condoned no crime, but was compassion-

ate toward the criminal. II. Why Jesus came. The purpose of the incarnation was expressly to meet a stern moral nuccessity remediable in no other way. The wreck of the is the source of all excellence, who fall was complete and the moral loss dwells in the highest heaven. Peace is absolute. A hankrupt race was to be declared as coming to men, as between restored and rehabilitated. Jerus came God and man and between man and for the purpose of revelation and reconciliation. There was revealed to the world in Jesus Christ all of God that a perfect human life could disclose Jesus came to reveal man and to redeem the race. In Himself He realized and manifested God's original ideal of perfect moral manhood. As the "Lamb of God" He "nut away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." As the great High Priest of our Christian profession He "gave Himself for us." He was at once the Offering and the Offerer. His name was bestowed by II. The child found by the shepherds | virtue of his saving power. Calvary

> Warts on the hence is a disfign ment that troubles many ladies. Helloway's Corn Cure will remove the blemishes without pain.

> > CHRISTMAS CANDIES

Regines Amateur Confection

Peanut Candy-To make peanut candy, shell and break into small piece with a rolling pin one quart of peanuts. Boil for ten minutes stirring constantly, one pound of light bry before taking from the fire add the peanuts Pour into Cat, buttere

Peppermint Creams Buil togethe

without stirring two cups of mea

tins and set away to cool.

and half a cup of water. When thick enough to spin a thread remove the tin to a basin of cold water and beat the mixture rapidly entil it be

On it the exile returns to his native land, the wanderer comes home, the prodigal looks back to his father's predignt looks back to his father's us who wisely love to perpetuate the love. Families that have been seat-tered over the face of the earth are re-united once more, drawn house by the centiment that Christmas inspires, one of the strongest, most inerradicable sentiments because one of the earliest fortered in the heart of the child. No season so sacred, so beautiful as the Christmas-tide, and no claus. The most delightful memories of one's life centres round the childseason that exercises so beneficent an of one's life centres round the child-influence upon the heart of men. In ish days when we believed all things influence upon the heart of men. Indeed all evil influences are impotent.
Hundreds of years ago when the
world was more superstitious and be filled by Senta Claus and no one
more poetic than it is to-day, the Christmas season was supposed to eradicate for the time the whole power ter of the reindeer feet on the roof,

Wherein our Saviour's birth is cele-The bird of dawning singeth all night walk abroad;

nights are whole No fairy takes, no witch hath power So hallowed and so gracious is the

tion of the Can-

admini time is there any-all the year like it? This m of the birth of the divine d the evergreen Christmas tree with gleaming candles, and glittering sterious fruit, has of It is essentially a of gift giving and peceiving— a universal custom that probably and its origin in the story of the kings that travelled from afar; led by a at star, to the city of David, to lay THINGS WE DO NOT OUTGROW.

St. Nicholas, or Santa Claus, as the children love to call the jolly old patron saint of the season, long ago set the example of giving, especially to the children, at Christmas time, and to this day there are 'grown ups' amongst us who wisely love to perpetuate the firm intention of listening to the pattrayed us, the sockings were always full-with just the things we needed, and who, pray but Santa Claus could have got into the house at midnight and put all those things for us? How early we loved to get up, though it was such a tribulation at any other time! Then the frantic curiosity and

anticipation as we felt the stockings

to see what they held, and the shrill

exclamation of delight, as doll,

whistle, or bugle, or ball came

ant Colonel Walter Maughon.

**Demobilization of Troops** 

ays the orange and raising and my at the last! Then there was he scattle into mether's room in the grey dawn to show her what San-ta Claus had brought, and the bed pread with staring dolls with imible limbs, gay Noah's arks, tin chilers, drum and whistles, and the rest of the day given up to a perfect onium of noises made by the atter! Dear delightful days of credulous and happy childhood, who would not give the whole of a life of 'grownupness' to have them back, to enjoy once more one of those never-to-he-forgotten Christmas days, and to have one hour's enjoyment of the new doll whose eyes actually shut when it was put to bed! It is undoubtedly the childish impression we get of the Christmastide that makes it so sacred a season with us throughout our lives -that has made it so deep-rooted and beloved a festival throughout the world. And just so long as it continues to be a season of good-will and cordial friendliness and love and charity, just so long will the Christ-child, be a good thing for the world of humanity-for even one day of the year given up to the thoughts of making others happy cannot be lost. THE NEIGHBORLINESS OF

CHRISTMAS. But of all the aspects of Christmas there is none so attactive, so heartsome as its neighborliness. At that time we all realize in an amazing way that all the world, rich or poor, high or low, is our neighbor. All the year round we know that there are hungry folk at our very doors, but we are too busy with our work, our pleasures, our studies, to hunt them cut and feed them. On Christmas Eve all our indifference, our exclusiveness, our selfishness disappear before the thought of the little Child, who, when he grew to manhood, recognized no caste, no rank, no class, no creed, but taught us that whosoever was needy or afflicted was our neighbor. That it is in the season that we should so press home this thought more than at any other season, we do not know. only know that we recognize its truth, its beauty, and we act accordingly. We do do not merely exchange visits and cordiailty with our own 'set', our own friends: we boldly visit and bear gifts of food and clothing to them, the hungry, the poor, the afflicted, and try to see that no one goes unfed or unhappy on that day that celebrates the birth of the divine Child, Verily a little child shall lead them!

The Best Liver Pill.—The action of the liver is easily disarranged. A sudden chill, undue exposure to the elements, over-indulgence in some favorite food, excess in drinking, are a few of the causes. But whatever may be the cause, Parmalee's Vegetable Pills can be relied upon as the best corrective that can be taken. They are the leading liver pills and they have no superiors among such preparations.

GIFTS FOR **CHILDREN** 

Once upon a time a "useful present" was the one dread of a child's Christmas. But now things have changed. and quite for the best, since many useful articles are camcuflaged well, with all the romance of childhood. What rosy pair of little feet will scorn a pair of warm fe't slippers, decorated with a cunning picture bunny! And what of a snug bathrobe in the same the rest of that same buny family! The goods for the bathrobe may be purchased so decorated.

How about gayly painted and stenciled dress and coat hangers, as well as a tree to match, that one may neatly hang up one's miniature wardrobe at night, ready for the morning. And there are all kinds of really substantial nrsuery furniture; most artistic and indeed fascinating to live with which will be a joy all through childter bring to mind also the altogether please them. There is plenty of room for the child's name too. plates encourage care in the hand, ug | tien of their effective work. of a child's books. A little girl's dainty white imitation ivory toilet set is sure to please, while a fur cap with fur gloves to match will reach the heart of a little boy quite as surely as many toys-and will last longer. A child's magazine, coming by subciption every month, is always a useful and worthwhile Christmas gift. Grown folks may borrow Christmas Day for their own, but by right of inheritance it really belongs first and last to the children-bless them! Everyone really feels this way, and whaiever other gifts must be struck of! this year, the children's gifts of course remain.

In the case of very young children something in the way of toys is too grat a joy to be denied, but toys now are more expensive than ever and only strong, well-made ones and those that have more than mere novelty to recommend them should be considered.

No More Asthma. Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Asthma Remedy sounds the death knell of this trying trouble. It stops the awful choking and painful breathing. It guards against night attacks and gives renewed ability to sleep and rest the whole night long. Much is claimed for this remedy, but nothing but what can be demonstrated by a trial. If you suffer from asthma try it and convince yourself of its great value.

Professional Mourners.

In ancient times funerals were followed by professional, mourners, who simulated the appearance of the wildest grief. The custom survives in the valley of Sondrio, in the Alps. There the women do not follow the funeral, but they group themselves at the entrance to the cemetery and burn in Christmas In Hawaii and Samoa

Christmas in its true meaning in commemorated by almost the entire world; and under the starry banner of the United States of America it is kept in the manner we keep it here, from frigid Alaska to southern seas, from Atlantic to Pacific and westward to the gateway of the Orient. It is interesting to know how the season is spent in those delightful islands in the Pacific, where snows never blanket the earth in immaculate silence, nor wintry blasts provide whistling accompaniment to jingling sleighbells.

In Hawaii and Samoa Christmas day is observed as it is in the States, insofar as the contrast in climate and customs allows it. Only perhaps in remote parts of the Philippines are there a few spots whose inhabitants have not been reached and taught the Christian way of keeping Christmas; only a very few places where a home-sick American girl teacher throws her-self amid the lacy ferns in some sunlit glade, and adds to the lazy chatter of a little brook her teary remembrance of plum pudding, turkey and cranberry sauce.

The natives of Hawaii have long since adopted, in a measure, the New England customs of celebrating Christmas. They go to their lovely, picturesque churches in the morning, and the afternoon is given over to visits among neighbors and friends, costume parties, and giving of gifts, the latter being confined mostly to simple presents for the children, a practice which might well be adopted by the mother country. In one city, Hilo, one may have the

unique pleasure of having Hawaii and

New England at the same time. For

directly above the town stands the regal mountain, Mauna Kea, 14,000 teet high, and which is perpetually snowcovered. With a little persuasion and much obvious clinking of silver, the natives will go up and return with a cart load of honest-to-goodness snow. Thus one may have a lively (and necessarily speedy) snowball fight, and retire to the shade of a sheltering palm to cool off! prettier sight can be imagined than Mauna Kea at dawn on Christmas morning. One's first impression is of a balmy June day, then the startling contrast of the snow-covered mountain directly above, and the swiftly moving hand of dawn changing the sunrise tints from purple to blue, pink and finally to gold, as the sun appears in blinding brilliance. In Samoa the day has more of an European air, as have rost of the civilized customs adopted by these islanders. Every city of three or four thousand has a queen, unmarried, who has a retinue and holds court in a primitive fashion, but none the less uninterestingly. She is the official hostess to visitors within the gates, and presides at all civic functions. At court people are seated according to rank, and their cases are heard with dignity and great ceremony. Christmas is one of the red letter days, and is a gala affair indeed, consisting of a continuous round of concerts, Lancing, "tum-tumming" and feasting. Usually the afternoon is devoted to the exchange of gifts, this occasion being under the personal supervision of the queen, who sees that everybody is satisfied, and not infrequently she confiscates a gift that is not in keeping with the donor's means, or her own color as the slippers, and gay with idea of the fitness of things. The day is one of many pleasures crowded together in riotous confusion, but it is very doubtful if the natives get the real significance of the occasion which they are commemorating. This is a failing much in evidence in more

One dose of Miller's Worm Powders will clear the stomach and bowels of worms, so that the child will hood. Gayly painted tiny but prac- no more be troubled by their ravagtical desks, with book ends to match, es. The powders are sweet to the are to be recommended too. The lat- taste and no child will object to taking them. They are non-injurious in lovely book plates to be had nowadays their composition, and while in some ofr children, in designs especially to cases they may cause vomiting, that must not be taken as a sign that Book they are nauseating, but as an indica-

civilized communities, however, so one

cannot be hard on Samoa.

THE EMPTY STOCKING.

There's an empty stocking hanging From many a little bed, Where a God-blown dream hangs over Each sleeping curly-head; And the vision gathers nightly Of a cay that's soon to come Where little feet should patter To the music of the drun

There's an empty stocking hanging By many a wind-blown door.
That must wait in vain for Christmas
In the gray haunts of the poor; And eyes that now shine brightly Shall, through a train of tears, See nothing there on Christmas But the forrow of the years.

But out where splendor centres In the mansions of the Great, No call will go unanswered— No tot will vainly wait; The Christmas horn will summon The Christmas drum will roll
The tide of joy in magic
Through the gateway of each soul.

But where one gift would brighten The dark of weary days. No reindeer's hoofs will thunder Out powerty's drear ways; And so, for God's white season— For some wee dreamer's cause— Don't you think that you might whisper Just 2 word to Santa Claus?

The Gold Louis.

The French coin known as the louis d'or was first struck in 1641, under Louis XIII. While it has not been coined since 1795, since the execution of Louis XVI., the name is often given to the twenty franc piece, or gold napoleon. While the value of the louis fluctuates, it may be roughly estimated at about \$5 of United States money.—Indianapolis News.

Fresh Supplies in Demand-Where ever Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil has been introduced increased supplies have been ordered, showing that honor of the dead, candies which vary impresses it power on the people. No wherever it goes this excellent oil in size according to the remuneration. matter in what latitude it may be They are as prodigal as were the found its potency is never impaired. mourners of ancient times in the simulation of sincere grief. London in bottles and can be carried without fear of breakage.

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