

# The Birth of Christ in the Soul

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TEXT—My little children, of whom I travel in birth again until Christ be formed in you.—Galatians 4:19.

I go out of the beaten path in this Christmas message, and call to contemplate the birth of our Savior into the world. I would apply the event to his birth into the individual life. Opportunity is not afforded for enlargement on the meaning of the text, but

I. It suggests that the birth of Christ into the experience of men is a process of three stages. Christ must be formed in their understanding and in their will, but especially in the affections which mold their character and conduct. Their understanding is reached in the preaching of the Word of God, but their wills and affections are moved only as the power of the Holy Spirit accompanies that Word. This explains why there is much preaching and teaching of the Bible, and so little effected in the conversion of souls. How much Christians need to pray for their pastors, for the Sunday school teachers of their children, and, above all, for themselves, that the unction of the Holy One may rest upon them as they witness for Christ, that their testimony may beget in others the new life through faith in him.

The Second Adam.  
II. But the text suggests that the birth of Christ in the soul would be impossible had not Christ himself been born into the world. Our natural man could have no existence without a natural progenitor, and this is equally clear of our spiritual or regenerated man. Why is Christ called in Scripture the second Adam. If not that he was, so to speak, a new starting point for man, "the pure spring of a redeemed race"? This does not mean merely that he was the purest, noblest and best man who ever lived, but that in his humanity he was much more than any other man from Adam down. In a certain sense humanity was reborn in the manger at Bethlehem. Redemption begins by a new birth in the race which includes all men, at least to this degree, that in Christ dwells potentially all that all men need. There is now a chance, which but for the incarnation of Christ never could have been, that each of us may become regenerated and begin our life over again.

But in speaking of the humanity of Christ, it must be kept in mind that in his nature there was united the two natures, the human and the divine. Christ was man, but also he was God. We are unable to understand this mystery, but we accept it by faith on abundant testimony, while we adore and praise him that of his fullness all we may receive, and grace for grace.

Birth of Christ in the Soul.  
III. Just as the Holy Ghost was instrumental in the birth of Christ into the world, so is he necessary to the birth of Christ in the soul. The virgin could not have given birth to the Son of Man had not the Holy Ghost come upon her and the power of the highest overshadowed her, and it is written that "no man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost." As the great Puritan divine, John Owen, used to say, "We can have no real design of conformity to Christ unless we have their eyes who beheld his glory." But how shall we obtain those eyes if they are not given us from above? The natural man beholds no excellency in Christ, and appreciates no need of him as a Savior, until these experiences are begotten in him by supernatural power and grace. We have referred to this before but it needs to be emphasized again and again.

IV. Finally, as the birth of Christ into the world marks the most important era in the world, so the birth of Christ into the soul marks the most important era in the soul. It is this which turns the believer "from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God." No converted man would change his experience of salvation and the indwelling Christ for all the world could give him. It is this fact that makes the Christmas a time of sadness as well as one of happiness and joy. We see merriment about us, yet we shrink from it as from the thought of that infidel who strove to balk the King of Terrors by ordering in a game of cards with his dying breath. There is no Christmas joy a believer in Christ so earnestly covets as to learn of some one who, as a result of his ministry, has come to inherit the Christmas in the earth from the point of view of a Christmas in the soul. While it is the work of the Holy Spirit to perform this miracle of grace in him, yet it is his duty to yield his will to him that he may perform it.

## NO WARSHIPS WANTED IN SOUTH AMERICAN WATERS

Those Countries Ask United States to Assist Them in Restoring Western Trade.

Washington.—The United States government has been asked by the principal nations of South America to cooperate with them in negotiations with the belligerent powers of Europe to exclude all belligerent warships from the waters of the two Americas and to safeguard the trade of Pan-American countries with each other.

Argentina, Chile, Peru and Uruguay have laid their suggestions before the Washington government, while the Brazilian government is considering the advisability of taking a similar step. Practically all the Central and South American countries have been circled by some of the principal nations, resulting in a series of diplomatic conferences in Washington and the capitals of South America which are now in progress.

While the proposals are different in character and scope, they all seek the same end—the restoration of the trade paralyzed by the European war. The movement also has for its object the removal of possible causes of serious friction between the countries of this hemisphere and the European belligerents on questions of neutrality.

Already Chile, Ecuador and Colombia have had serious difficulties with the belligerents over the use of the wireless and the coaling of foreign warships whose presence in the Atlantic and Pacific is growing obnoxious to South American countries.

None of the nations which have made suggestions is committed to any particular plan, but all seek the cooperation of the United States. The impetus that will make any plan effective, it is recognized by the diplomats of South America, rests with President Wilson.

The various plans thus far formally communicated to the United States are as follows:

1. The establishment of neutral zones on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North and South America within which the belligerents shall be asked to agree not to engage in hostilities, or interfere with commercial vessels, or a meridian would be designated as the limit in each case.
  2. The convocation of a general conference of diplomatic representatives and commercial delegates of all the countries of this hemisphere with powers to vote on steps which can be taken to protect and restore Pan-American trade.
  3. The appointment by the Pan-American union of a committee to recommend steps that would remove dangers to Pan-American trade.
  4. Prohibition by all nations of the two Americas of the privilege hitherto exercised by belligerents of coaling in neutral ports, or the issuance of only a sufficient quantity of coal to enable a belligerent vessel to reach the nearest port of another country.
- Already, some of the powers of Europe have been sounded on these propositions and it is understood that Great Britain is ready to deny her warships entry into Central and South American ports to coal if the United States approves the proposal and other belligerents agree.

## UNITED STATES SOLDIERS HOME FROM VERA CRUZ

Army Transports With Over 3,000 Soldiers and Refugees Reach Galveston on Thanksgiving Day.

Galveston, Tex.—Nosing into port through the fog and mists of a rainy Thanksgiving, four United States army transports were moored at the wharves of Galveston Thursday. They bore more than three thousand American soldiers, comprising the United States expeditionary forces, back from the occupation of Vera Cruz, headed by Major General Frederick Funston, infantry, cavalry, field artillery, officers, noncoms and enlisted men all stood upon the rain-slaked decks of the big floating barracks, heedless of the driving sheets that drenched them to the skin. And when the wharves on which welcoming umbrellas sprouted mushroomlike came within their vision, cheer after cheer rose and rang across the oily gray waters of the channel.

Marked was the contrast between the home-coming and the memorable day in May, when the sun sparkled menacingly upon blue steel or glinted dully upon gunmetal insignia. But while on the day of departure the brightest weather in the world could not stem the rising of sobs that racked throat after throat, the day of return proved that all weather is good weather when the heart beats in tune, for rain gusts that swept the piers could not drench the laughter that bubbled to the surface.

Cane Grinding Season Is Short.  
Abbeville, La.—The cane grinding season this year will be unusually short. Some farmers have already finished cutting and hauling their cane, and it is safe to say that the sugar mills will all be through grinding by Dec. 15.

West Virginia Has Disease.  
Washington.—Five cases of foot and mouth disease in cattle and hogs have been discovered near Waterford, Va., in London county.

## FARM EXPERTS TO VISIT TEXAS

A STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN FOR DIVERSIFIED FARMING WILL BE INAUGURATED.

### MAKE A THREE-WEEKS TOUR

Prof. Holden, Accompanied by Fifty or More Agricultural Experts, Will Explain Diversified Stock Farming, Agriculture Problems, Etc.

If the plans now being formulated by a number of organizations are carried out, Texas early in the new year will witness a statewide agricultural campaign for diversified farming that will make an epoch in the history of the State.

Through the efforts of the Temple Chamber of Commerce and similar commercial bodies, it is planned to bring to Texas in January Prof. Perry G. Holden and a corps of fifty or more agricultural experts, who, in connection with representatives of the Texas Farmers Congress, the state department of agriculture, the extension department of A. and M. and the State University, the Texas Farmers' Union, the Texas Industrial Congress, the agricultural departments of the Texas railroads, chambers of commerce, commercial clubs and other agricultural and live stock associations, will make a three weeks' tour, covering as many of the counties in the State as possible, in the interest of diversified live stock farming. "Was it grown in Texas" is to be the slogan of this great farm "revival."

Prof. Holden and his associates are now engaged in a campaign of this sort in Arkansas. They recently concluded a similar campaign, lasting for thirty-three days, in Oklahoma.

Concerning this work Prof. Holden said: "It is the policy of furnishing a physician for those who are sick, rather than for those who are whole, upon which we have proceeded in regard to agricultural extension work. We have found more calls for help than we can possibly answer and we now have on file over 8,000 requests for campaigns.

"There are two ways in which we have found we can best dispense farm health: one through the regular hospital—the experimental farm—and the other through special relief trains that are rushed into the afflicted region with scores of skilled experts on board who have seen long and arduous service in many States and who have remedies up their sleeves that have been tried and found true. "The Oklahoma problem was about as knotty as any ever tackled by extension experts. It may be stated in its various phases something as follows:

- (1) Roughly, the eastern half of the State of Oklahoma is under federal quarantine at the present time for the Texas fever cattle tick.
- (2) This same section is staggering under the ruinous one-crop system also.
- (3) The combined effect of these two foes of prosperity has been, first, to make the farmer poor and after him the merchant, the banker and everybody else.

"Now to destroy insect enemies to crops, there must be diversified farming and before there can be diversified farming of the right sort, the cattle tick must be destroyed. To destroy the cattle tick, there must be dipping vats, arsenical solutions and twice-a-week baths. This is about the way the prescription read when we entered the field Sept. 1. The problem was a big one, and the territory concerned so large that it was decided to take fourteen counties of the infested region which lie contiguous to the comparatively sound northwest corner of Oklahoma.

"It was such truths as these which we endeavored to sow broadcast during our Oklahoma campaign. Fifteen extension department speakers and twelve from the government and other sources delivered the truth about Oklahoma to some 18,750 people.

"The editor of the Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman, in commenting on this phase of the campaign, had the following to say:

"Here are twenty speakers gathered from almost as many States, divided into groups of two or three and sent by automobile into the far corners of every county. They hold meetings on farms and in country school houses and at cross-roads, preaching everywhere as they go the gospel of—what? 'High falutin' farming.' Chemistry, bacteriology, soil physics and what not?"

"That was the thing I feared when I heard that these farm experts were coming into Oklahoma to tell us how to farm. Instead, I found most of them full of practical, working knowledge, and well informed, as well concerning the actual conditions of needs of every Oklahoma district which they intended to visit.

"Thus did the apostles of better farming tour the highways and byways of the fourteen counties of Oklahoma, distributing everywhere pertinent information simply expressed. The meetings were held at the rate of forty a day."

Prof. Holden is recognized as one of the foremost agricultural educators of the country. He and his associates have received a special invitation from Governor Colquitt and Attorney General Looney to come to Texas and to co-operate in the effort now being made to introduce diversified farming more extensively.

# Two Useful Winter Birds

By Julie Adams Powell

Years ago when Mr. Eugene Schiefelin introduced the English starling into Central park, New York city, I do not believe that he thought that it would breed so fast as to spread over a good part of the United States, in so short a time, nor that it would become such a nuisance, that the Audubon societies are thinking of having it put on the list of game birds. This is because this new comer is driving out many of our own more beautiful song birds, such as the blue bird, the flicker, the wren, and whatever bird nests in holes in trees.

I have called this bird useful, in my headline. So he is, because in the summer time he kills thousands of grubs, spiders and insects in order to satisfy the hungry brood of youngsters, that is always clamoring for more and more. If their number could be kept down, and if they would not perch around our dwellings, we would be very glad to welcome them to our orchards during the grub and insect period.

Some sunny morning, you boys will hear a long drawn whistle outside your window, and then a sound very like a chuckle. Open the window carefully, and wrapped up warmly, you can stand there and view the songster, and you will find that between the chuckle and whistle, there are some very sweet notes which you did not hear before. And on the elm tree just outside the house you will see two, four and sometimes six birds which from that distance look as if they were all allied in black suits, which in the sun shine with a metallic purple and green color.

You will find a compactly built bird, between eight and nine inches long, with a strong brown bill and a rather short tail. Instead of being all of an iridescent black, the feathers of the upper parts and sides are tipped with deep yellow, the wings and tail are dark brownish gray, tipped with buff, and the under parts are heavily spotted with white.

The starlings do not hop. They are walkers like the crows. During the winter they can be studied more carefully than in the summer, when there are so many more attractive birds about.

They are great chatters, and often the listener will be rewarded by a series of warbles and notes of joy, which are like the laughter of little children. If this wise old bird sees you looking at him, he will shut up his mouth right in the middle of his prettiest notes, and not open it again until you walk around the corner of the house out of his sight.

A story was told me the other day of a pair of starlings which built their nest in a hole in the side of a house in our city of Stamford, right under the eaves. There must have been a beam projection for the roughly put together nest of sticks to be fastened to, but even so, when the birdlings grew large enough to move about, they frequently tumbled out of the nest, with great scramblings and flutterings of wings and shrill cries of alarm.

Inside the wall of the house was the room of a little boy, and as it hap-

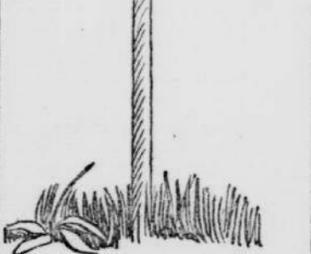
these birdlings remained a week longer, until they flew out into the world.

One of our very interesting little winter birds, and one of the most conspicuous, is the nuthatch—the white-breasted nuthatch. He is remarkable for his stout and sturdy build and strong pointed cylindrical bill and very short tail.

The nuthatch is one of our commonest winter birds, and easily identified. To see him run down the trunks of trees, is enough to make one dizzy, and his hoarse cry of "yank, yank" is pit. I thought that it showed wonderful intelligence.

The nuthatch is a gray and black bird, about six inches in length. The top of his head and the front of his back is a shining black, while the rest of his upper parts are of a bluish gray. There is white on his wings, and the sides of his head and under parts are white. Just under his tail will be noticed a dull rufous color.

We do not often see the nuthatch about our homes in summer unless we are fortunate enough to live off in the country districts. They build their nests in the hollows of trees, where the entrance is particularly small. If it is too large, they build it up with mud or clay until it is of the desired size. They are great fighters for a bird of their size, and it is a brave bird that tries to molest the nest of the little white-breasted nuthatch.



Bath Tub for Birds on an Eight-Foot Pole. 1—Cat Guard. 2—Cross Pieces for the Birds to Rest on and Dry Their Feathers After Their Bath.

different from any other bird call. In some districts the nuthatch is extremely shy, while at other times and places this little bird becomes as friendly as the chickadee, or the winter sparrows.

Some writers say that the nuthatch feeds mostly on nut meats, while others declare that the bird breaks the shell to get at the insects and grubs which inhabit the nut. It is surely an

## ARE OF THE EARTH'S BEST

Deserved Tribute to the Women of Whom It is Said They Are "Agreeable to Live With."

"I feel of so little use in these progressive days," said a woman of mature years. "The woman of today is full of stimulating ideas. She is identified with important movements. She makes the most of her talents, but I—I—can do nothing. It seems as if I have so much to take up my time and yet I never do accomplish anything that will ever count in the vast scheme of things."

"You have the rarest talent that the world boasts of and you make the most of it every day," replied the visitor. "You are agreeable to live with."

Agreeable to live with! Unassuming phrase, with what a powerful reach! With domestic squalls so flagrant, divorce rampant, "incompatibility" a household word, the woman who is agreeable to live with is a mighty factor in the press of progress. She brightens the atmosphere about her at a time when there seems much effort expended to make people good, but little to make them happy. Such a woman has the gift of divinity. She glorifies the commonplace. She nourishes the nation.

It is splendid to uplift, to be artistic, to head world movements, but there is little that so becomes a woman as to be agreeable to live with. It is a way in which those who tarry at home may keep step with their more conspicuously progressive sisters.—Mother's Magazine.

## Australia's Mallee Hen.

The builder of the biggest nest in the world is the Australian mallee hen, a bird considerably smaller than a domestic turkey. The nest is used year after year, and as many as twenty or thirty pairs of birds use the same nest at one time. It is not uncommon to find a hundred eggs in a nest, and these are very good for cooking purposes. A large mound of earth is scratched together by the birds, the center being filled with leaves, and on these the eggs are laid. They are then covered with more leaves and earth, and the cares of the parent bird are ended. They do not sit on the eggs at all, as the spontaneous combustion of the rotting leaves generates the required heat for incubation, says the Strand. The chickens are able to run about and find food for themselves from the time they are hatched. The small hen is a very shy bird, and is seldom seen near any habitation.

## Peerless Geneva.

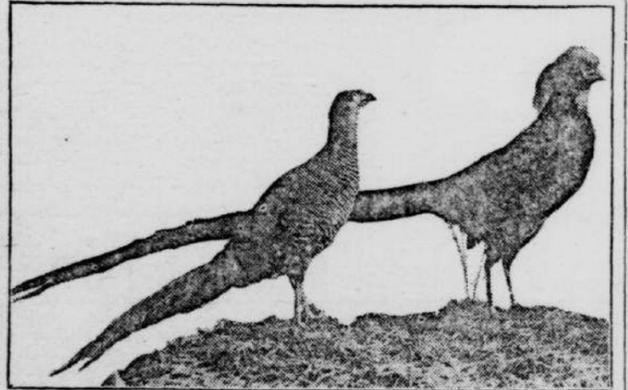
The most glowing tribute to Geneva is Mr. Frederic Harrison's. "I hold Zurich, Basle and Geneva to be the model cities of our age—the fine type of what cities will one day be in a regenerated age—the true type of civic organization, having sites of rare beauty and convenience, spacious streets and avenues, noble public walks and gardens, perhaps everything short of grand antique buildings." Geneva in particular is "the finest type of a rational city that Europe possesses . . . a true city where, as in Athens, Florence, Venice, Antwerp or Ghent, or old, men can live a wholesome civic life, not in huge, amorphous caravanseries such as London, Paris or Berlin—not in suffumigated barracks such as Manchester, or Lyons, or Glasgow—but in a beautiful, well-ordered, free, organic city."

## This Is Funny.

An English paper says that the hat of a certain short-sighted master at Eton blew off one day, and as he started in pursuit of it a black hen dashed out of the gateway. The schoolmaster saw the hen and thought it was his hat, and so all Eton was electrified by the spectacle of a hatless and breathless learned man chasing a black hen from one end of the street to the other.

## A Poker Devotee.

"Dingburn says he reads everything that comes into his hands. "That oughtn't to take him long." "Why not?" "It's mostly hearts, clubs, spades and diamonds."



Silver Pheasants—One of the Most Common Species of the Family—The Upper Part of the Body is White Delicately Marked With Black.

pened, the head of his bed was against the very spot where the feathered youngsters took their naps, and oftentimes in the middle of the night the little boy was rudely awakened by the cries of the babies who tumbled out of their bed. When the little boy learned what the noise was, he watched the parents going in and out of the hole, until one day they all flew away and a piece of tin was placed over the entrance to keep them out.

Last summer during a gale of wind an old apple tree in our orchard was blown directly in two. I found that a starling nest was laid bare, and in the nest were four youngsters almost ready to fly. The nest was securely fastened to the side of the tree which was left standing, fortunately, and so

insectivorous bird, as one will learn by watching the bird industriously searching the barks of trees for larvae and insects.

Their bill is very strong and the nuthatch will push a nut into a crevice and hammer away at it until the shell breaks.

One day in November I saw a nuthatch on the roof outside my window. He had something in his mouth and without noticing my near presence, he hunted about for a place to hide his treasure. Under a loose shingle he pushed it, and then I saw that it was a cherry stone. He cocked his head on one side and then on the other, for the place did not seem quite secure enough. He made a dive for a leaf, and poked that in after his cherry

## AS IN OLD SAILBOAT DAYS

American Vessel Will Take Cargo to the West Coast of Africa to Trade.

For about one hundred years American sailing vessels bartered and traded on the west coast of Africa. So again, with the Stars and Stripes flying from its masthead, the Adelia T. Carleton, an American sailing vessel, loaded with a cargo of American goods, will sail for the west coast of Africa.

This enterprise is due to the efforts of Arthur Muller, president of the newly organized American Tropical Trading company of New York. This company intends to take American goods on consignment—consisting of tobacco, flour, pork, salt, beef, vegetables, gin, matches, to trade for native products.

In the old times the American flag flying from Yankee ships took the place of lighthouses along this coast so regularly were they to be found. The shrewd Yankee trader, quite often

master of the vessel he sailed, evaded or conquered opposition wherever he came in contact with it and returned home with a profit which modern business minds find hard to believe.—New York Sun.

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