

THE CHRISTMAS STAR

By JEAN DOUGLAS.



THE twilight of Christmas eve crept slowly over the city, disguising the harsh outlines of the rooftops with a soft gray blanket.

The spirit of Yuletide filled the air, and since you could not help breathing it, the joyous song of "Peace and good-will" flooded the inner being as well.

In the dormer window of an attic chamber overlooking the city stood a little child. She was thin and pale, but even these ravagers of beauty could not rob her features of their loveliness. Great blue eyes and golden curls enhanced the fairy-like delicacy of her face, and though ill clad she possessed the bearing of a princess. Now and again she left her post at the window and, opening the door, listened as if expecting to hear familiar footsteps ascending the stairs.

When it was almost dark and lights began to appear here and there over the rooftops, like will-o'-the-wisps in a marshy bog, she drew a chair beneath the hook driven in the closet door from which an exceedingly shabby coat and weather-beaten hat were suspended. By this means she was able to reach the garments and was soon attired for the street. Running back to the window she scanned the horizon gleamed a single star of wondrous brilliancy, and the child, enraptured by its beauty, forgot that she intended to go out and remained motionless watching the resplendent glory of heaven's jewel. The room was flooded with a soft shimmering light, and the child gave a sob of joy as she suddenly realized that the star moved. As far as she could see the same silvery radiance flooded the sky. The great soul within that tiny body sang with happiness and she softly whispered: "It is the star of Bethlehem. I must follow it, like the three wise men!"

She hastened from the room and down the flights of steps to the street. The star moved on and on, unfalteringly, and the tiny figure trembled in every limb as it followed the wondrous light.

Beyond the boundary of the city, over frozen roads and frost-whitened fields, the tireless little feet, ill-protected by their worn shoes, hastened after the star.

At last she came to a tiny house nestled among a group of fir trees. From the windows came paths of yellow light, whose warmth and cheeriness drew her on to the door.

She did not pause to knock but lifted the latch and entered. The room was scantily furnished, but a glowing fire bathed the homely surroundings with a glorified beauty.

Seated in front of the fireplace was a woman who bent lovingly over an infant. Grouped about her were three children, while the father of this happy family stood somewhat back of the mother hanging a branch of evergreen above the mantel.

As the little stranger entered and hesitated, the children rushed forward to greet her.

"Come in, child," said the mother. The tired little girl moved eagerly forward. "Have I found the king?" she asked.

"The king?" questioned the proud mother. "Yes, we think baby is a king." And she placed the soft, pink face of the infant close to that of the child, who reverently kissed its cheek.

"I have brought him a gift," she whispered, shyly, offering a little blue purse. The mother stooped and imprinted a warm kiss on the lips of the tiny gift bearer.

"He will love it, and would thank you if he could. See, he reaches for it now." The chubby fingers, attracted by the brightly colored beads, tried their best to grasp the purse.

"You have given him his first Christmas gift," said the father. "Draw near the fire—you are cold—while I get a bowl of bread and milk."

The child removed her hat and coat, seated herself on the hearth stool and was soon enjoying the simple fare.

"How did you find us?" the woman asked.

"I followed the star," she replied.



Chance for Burbank. "Here's something for Burbank to try his hand on," said a man to his neighbor.

"What's that?" "Training a Christmas tree to sprout its own presents."



Giving of Presents. It was the custom among Romans to exchange gifts at their winter festival, and this custom may have descended to us from antiquity. But Christians like to feel that it was because the wise men brought gifts to the infant Jesus, and because of the gift of God to the world. Gifts to the poor seem from the earliest Bible times to have been an expression of a thankful heart.

The Day of the Child

By WILBUR D. NESBIT

THE tree shines with the candle glow,
The trinkets glitter jewel-wise,
And we would that our souls might know
The joy told in the children's eyes.
Such sheer delight as this of theirs—
A wondrous happiness it is!
And every word the message bears:
This is the children's day—and His!

LET us come, as the Wise Men came
Those nineteen centuries ago,
Led by the Star's eternal flame
That bade them rise and hasten on.
They brought rare frankincense and myrrh,
They brought rich gems and graven gold,
They knelt, adoring, near to Her,
And all their marvelings they told.

AYE, as those Men of long ago,
Today we, too, may see the Star,
May see its mystic heavenly glow
Flash out o'er Childland fair and far,
And from our hands now fall the gifts
And we know why the Wise Men smiled
With gratefulness; and each heart lifts
Its chant of worship of the Child.



INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Course.)

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 20.
THE ASCENSION.

LESSON TEXT—Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11.

GOLDEN TEXT—He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight.—Acts 1:9.

We have now reached the final lesson of the present course in the life of Christ, next Sunday being devoted to the review. The lesson committee have selected the continuous account of this final earthly act of our Lord as given us by St. Luke, for the Book of Acts is a continuation of the Gospel of Luke (Acts 1:1). Inasmuch as this is really but one account we will consider only that found in the Acts.

1. **The Proof of the Resurrection.** vv. 1-3. This book of "The Acts" is a continuation of what Jesus "began to do" and gives us the record of how he continued this work by means of those "whom he had chosen" (v. 2). Following his resurrection he gave them commandments "through the Holy Spirit," viz. in the power of the Holy Spirit. A like honor rests upon every believer to hear and to obey the commands of Jesus given in the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit. The all-sufficient proof (see also I Cor. 15:4-8) was that Jesus had been seen for a period of 40 days. This is the "many infallible proofs." During that time they not alone saw the risen Lord, but conversed with him, ate with him, and had communion with him. During these days of communion he gave them his commands as to the "things concerning the kingdom of God." This entitled a burden that these commands be proclaimed in ever widening circles to the utmost bounds of the earth.

2. **The Promise of the Father.** vv. 4-8. The disciples were not to begin the proclamation of their message until they were fully equipped, until they had received that all essential preparation, the endowment of the Holy Spirit. Here, again, the Scriptures are to be fulfilled (Isa. 44:3; Joel 2:28; also Luke 24:49). That ten days' delay was not time lost, for time spent in preparation is never time lost. We must not suppose these men as not regenerate (John 13:10; 15:3), but as lacking an equipment necessary for the successful execution of their important task. We as believers cannot call him Lord except by the power of the Spirit (I Cor. 12:3), but we do not all have that in-filling of the Spirit which alone will enable us to render effective service. This is an additional experience, but one open to all who will honestly and intelligently seek it (see Acts 8:12, and other references). This experience is (a) commanded, "charged not to depart till, etc." (b) to be preceded by "repentance," and (c) to carry with it authority, v. 7, R. V. It does not mean, either, temporal power nor is it the prerogative of a visible church and confined to an elect few. This kingdom is a spiritual one. The program of Jesus is Spirit-filled men to be his witnesses, and to begin "at Jerusalem." A true reception of the Holy Spirit means world-wide missionary endeavor.

Presumptive Ignorance.
3. **The Present Place of Jesus.** vv. 9-11. Even yet the disciples failed to grasp the idea of a spiritual kingdom as evidenced by verse six. In a most emphatic way he tells them that it is not for them to know the "times and seasons which the Father hath set within his own power" (authority, v. 7, R. V.). Their power is not to be earthly, but spiritual (v. 8). It is the height of presumptive ignorance for any one to set the date of our Lord's return (Deut. 29:29). Jesus has given us explicit information on this question (Matt. 24:36), and his parables all warn us to "watch." While Jesus talked with his disciples concerning the reception of this new power and the place where they were to begin to exercise it, his feet were parted from the earth and a cloud received him from their sight as he ascended "into heaven" (Luke 24:51; I Pet. 3:22; see also Gen. 5:24 and Heb. 9:28 R. V.). His parting benediction was an adjuration to a life of service not in their weakness, but in the blessed endowment of power. Yonder into heaven he had gone to prepare a place for us (John 14:2, Heb. 9:24.) There he ever liveth to intercede for us (Heb. 7:25). His presence there makes us eternally secure (Rom. 8:34, Heb. 7:25). His presence in the heavens is the guarantee that we, too, shall one day be "with him" (John 12:26, Rev. 2:21).

This hope inspires the church to evangelism, to holy living and to faithful service. It was necessary that our Lord's work be transferred from his invisible person.

Lifted up he was on Calvary, lifted up he was into glory, that "if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me." Mysterious birth, wondrous life, glorious, marvelous ascension!

As this is written Europe is bathed in blood, and America is engaged in a set season of prayer for peace. The only abiding peace we can hope for will be when the Prince of Peace shall return to rule and to reign.

A Most Decided Bargain is Offered in **This Stylish Coat** at \$10.00

Illustration shows front and back of this very desirable garment. Material is of fine quality Navy Blue or Black Boucle. New flare skirt model, slightly fitted at waistline. Comfortable Raglan sleeves with fancy cuffs trimmed to match collar. Short loose belt in front—buttons over to left. Belt has side inserts of Silk Plush and back of belt is trimmed with four large Plush buttons as shown. Stylish back collar of self-material, plush button-trimmed and has center insert of Silk Plush as shown. Back of coat has V-pleats which are very effective. One of the most stylish and practical coats shown this season at \$10. Sizes, 34 to 42 bust.

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IS WRONG EMBLEM
No Place for Thunder Bird on European Flags.

According to Indian Tradition, It is the Recognized Symbol of Authority, Dignity, Arbitration, and, Above All, Peace.

More than twelve million fighting men in Europe are today wearing insignia on their clothing or are being led to victory or defeat by banners depicting a bird displayed in what Americans would call spread-eagle style. The troops that wave the Stars and Stripes aloft have in the past and present been led on by the counterfeitment of an eagle with outspread wings. Seldom do those engaged in war or mere onlookers ever give a thought to what appears to be on consideration an odd and relatively meaningless custom that almost verges on fetish worship. To be sure, one nation uses the painted or embroidered effigy of an elephant on its banners, another a dragon, and so on, but these nations are hardly civilized in the highest sense.

Investigation of encyclopedic information discloses no good reasons why America, Germany and Russia should place a bird on their national emblems.

Some weeks ago the Carlisle Indian school, following the footsteps of the American Society of Indians, adopted as the school emblem a thunder bird. The thunder bird was designed for the school by Angel De Cora Deltz, with her husband, William Lone Star Deltz, is teaching art at the Carlisle school. It has been learned that nearly all the Indian tribes recognize a bird as a symbol of authority and social rank. The artist, who is a Winnebago Indian of aristocratic lineage and who has delved deeply into Indian legends, says that the thunder bird or its equivalent in various forms has been a mark of distinction and authority, probably, for many thousand years. As a child she heard from native legendary sources the story of the thunder bird, and has every reason to believe that it is as ancient as the legend concerning the last mammoth.

According to an accepted legend ages had passed with all the spirits dominating land, water and air remaining on relative equality. Ancient Indian clans, for conveniences of recognition and occupation, had associated themselves with various patron spirits. The story of the achievement of domination by the thunder bird is tedious, but tells how a fatigued warrior of the thunder-bird clan lay exhausted at the edge of a precipice watching still waters far below. His attention was attracted by the disturbance of the limpid depths, from which the water spirit emerged to meet the thunder bird in deadly conflict. The observer is supposed to have been the only human being who has ever seen these spirits. As one or the other became exhausted they

Among the Indians the thunder bird stands for authority, dignity, arbitration and, most important of all, peace. There are many who believe that the emblem of a bird with widespread wings has been appropriated by the Europeans from ancient America. If so, it is an unfortunate perversion that makes the symbol of arbitration and peace the banner which leads to war and devastation.

"Sleeping" Bullet Least Dangerous.

Physicians have shown the world of warring men that the firing line of soldiers must be regulated if fewer casualties are to result. Close upon the enemy's fire or far away result in the most unhealable wounds; midway between the range of the rifle bullets is the most satisfactory position.

The reason is that the distance which a bullet travels is divided into three parts, the first distance the bullet travels in a wabby manner, either up or down or sideways; the middle distance it "sleeps," or moves on an exact plane, and the third distance, being partly spent, it wobbles in a serpentine movement again. When the bullet "sleeps" it cuts a clean hole through the part of the body hit, but when it is on the first or final distance it tears a jagged hole and moves either up or down and is likely to remain in the body.

When the battle range is regulated in such a manner that the line of soldiers is exposed to the range of the "sleeping" bullets there is less work for the ambulance corps.

SOLDIERS WELL FED
Liberal Ration Allotted Germany's Fighting Men.

Commanders Realize the Importance of Keeping Troops in Proper Physical Condition—Enormous Cost of the Commissariat.

Military experts placed little faith in the numerous rumors during the first days of the war to the effect that the German armies were suffering for lack of food. The reason why they doubted these reports was because it was hard to believe that a commissary department so well equipped as Germany's would fall in its work so early in a struggle for which preparations have been going on for years.

POTATOES
120,330,000 lbs

A Huge Tuber 33 Feet Higher Than the Statue of Liberty and Weighing Over 120,000,000 Pounds Would Make Only a Week's Supply of Potatoes for the Kaiser's Fighting Men.

It is a common saying that there are no old people now-a-days. That is more flattering than true. There are as many old people now as there ever were, in proportion to the population at large, but there are fewer, perhaps, who advertise their passing. The old people of today, as a rule, try to be more spruce, more agile, more debonaire. They pay attention to externals which would have been regarded as indecorous by persons of the same age a half century ago.

Should Conserve Panama Birds.

The bird resources of the canal zone evidently are of much importance. Possibly if they are properly conserved they will become one of the valuable assets of the United States. Having permitted so much reckless bird slaughter in this country that insect pests are increasing at an alarming rate, it would be well to take care of the birds that have been added to our national possessions by reason of the acquisition of a section of Panama.

ognized that food supplies may play as important a part in the winning or losing of battles as ammunition, marksmanship and personal bravery. With the thoroughness which is so characteristic of their nation the Germans have for years made the feeding of their soldiers a matter of scientific study. Their commissary department

