

## 12 CHRIST IN THE MANGER

was within a hair's-breadth of being immortalized by the patronage of the King of Kings. But it knew not the day of its visitation. The tide of travel surging through the land in consequence of the Emperor's edict that all the world should be taxed and that each man should go to his birthplace for registration, had brought an unwonted crowd to the little inn. Before Joseph and Mary could secure accommodation the place was full. The first to come was the first to be served, so that there was "no room" for the Holy Family in the hour of their emergency.

It is a characteristic feature of our modern life that the available space within us is speedily taken and densely packed. If a man has any capacity for thinking in these days the chambers of his mind will be quickly filled with intellectual interests. Science is busy sending in new facts and theories and demanding that they be accommodated. It wires ahead for rooms, offering big prices. It threatens with pains and penalties should it be denied. Along with Science come Art and Literature and Philosophy and Politics, each clamouring for room and entertainment. Business, too, shoulders its way into the soul. It rides