AGE EIGHT

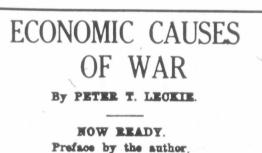
WESTERN CLARION

ROCKEFELLER IN THE HOLY LAND.

In these days of depression and disaster it is good to find some cheerful news, and quite the most delightful morsel I have found in the press lately is the Reuter cable from Washington announcing that Great Britain has consented to give the Standard Oil Company exploring rights in Palestine. The association of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, the old man who has been called the "richest Baptist on earth," with the Holy Land is surely a part of the eternal fitness of things. Mr. Rockefeller is too explore the Mount of Olives or the Valley of the Jordan personally, but he has earnest young evangelists who without rest will seek the hidden riches of the Land. Other travellers have gone there to look at the scenery and to adore the imaginary relics of the Founder of Christianity. It is the Standard Oil Company which has chosen the better part, and we cannot doubt that the prayers of Mr. Rockefeller have been answered. If, like Cowper's lacemaker, he "can read his title clear to mansions in the skies," he can read it still clearer to "gushers" and oil wells. The Bible contains many texts which that pious man may well mediate on with rapture. Take Deut, xxxii, 13, where we are told that the Lord made Jacob to "suck oil out of the flinty rock."

Could there be a more perfect anticipation of John's derricks at work in a petroliferous area, for "petroleum'' means "rock oil"? Again, in Micah vi, 7, we find the inquiry, "Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil?" The prophet seems doubtful; but there is no doubt about John D. Rockefeller. He leaves the rams to his friend Mr. Armour of the Meat Trust; but if there are any rivers of oil to be found any where John D. is after them, either personally or by deputy. Mr. Rockefeller, it may be added, is a piettist of a brand not quite new to Palestine; but he is well summed up by Miss Ida M. Tarbell, the historian of the Standard Oil Company, when she says: "Mr. Rockefeller is the victim of money-passion which blinds him to every other consideration in life; which is stronger than his sense of justice, his humanity, his affections, his joy in life; which is the one tyrannous, insatiatable force of his being."

-The Literary Guide.



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