

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

By REV. GEORGE RIDOUT, D.D., F.R.G.S. Asbury College, Wilmore, Ky.

ad no fear that it would fall. the Son of God."

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m's star shone with a lustre ld had never seen before, and said: of weary nations to One who ort to the distressed.

deeper darkness mantled wonder of his coming

souls of men aflame:

fanes beneath the skies;

ling through the soul of music that angels might enthrall: great thoughts of the ages,-He inspired them all! tar of Bethlehem gave lus-

greatest of all doctrinesnation .- and the most wonological miracles of the ages rgin Birth. There has been a roversy in recent years on

is hear some words from ancient and modern, on this

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Anselm said: "God can form man sign in the heavens out of in four ways: From a man and wo-

lows at night: the stars the man, as constant custom shows: from heaven held up in a vault neither man nor woman, as Adam; ne, yet I could see no pillars from a man without a woman, as Eve;

en look about for the pillars Sir Robert Anderson wrote: "In reld fain touch them with their gard to such a mystery as the Incarif afraid the sky would fall. nation our part is to keep to the very words of Holy Scripture; and the dark in Palestine, dark in language of Scripture is unequivocal ark everywhere when the and plain. As to his human birth, the thlehem shone out that Lord was "the Seed of the Woman." night. Four voiceless cen- But it will be asked, Now is that pospassed by since Malachi sible? The answer is supplied by Rome with all her Virgin Birth was altogether miraculand prowess had failed to light ous. The truth of his Sonship as imarkness and give happiness plied in the Virgin Birth is merged in nd mankind was on tiptoe of the truth that he was the Son of God from sin's thraldom and great truth is in the warp and woof souls. The Light from of every part of the New Testament. Well has Dr. Orr of Edinburgh

d to be God's torch to lighten "It is not merely the Virgin Birth of our Lord that is in question, it is give rest to the heavy laden, also the doctrine of original sin, the the troubled heart, solace sinlessness of Jesus, his bodily resurrection and ascension, the whole nature of the Atonement and Salvation. Those who give up the Virgin Birth will be compelled by logical and

irresistible impulse eventually to give up all these." 2. The Star of Bethlehem drew both the builder, and he builded the humble and the great to behold the Christ. There is a great contrast between the shepherds and the Wise men, as they worshipped the Christ,

but it suggests or enforces the truth that with Christ there is no respect of persons. He came to save the humble and the lowly as well as the learn-

Shepherds, in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night, od with man is now residing: Yonder shines the infant light: Come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations. Brighter visions beam afar; Seek the great desire of nations;

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37c. Ib.

Come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

"Touching the simplicity of the the blood of my Son; take it."

"It is not in any shape the reward worthy to receive it, but because it is a gift worthy of our kind and reconciled Father to bestow." "We are apt to stagger at the great-

en the Emperor Charles V. companion of the Apostle John, "When holy ... another class, who look into doned and the Protestant with the truth that Jesus Christ was and find that they cannot make out a The error of both lies in their looking

> money and without price. 3. The Star of Bethlehem centers attention upon Jesus Christ as the World's Saviour.

the earth." Salvation is without

Recall the angel announcement "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a SAVIOUR" "Thou shalt call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins."

Great tributes have been paid to the name and person of Jesus. To Schleiermacher "He was a being so to my memory. "The Being without whose presence in the mind perfect piety is impos- takes a prominent place. sible" to Kant "ideal perfection" to Hegel the "union of the human and phet of Nazareth" who belongs to the very first rank of the men of sublime genesis. Theodore Parker waxing elo-

in His bosom!"

Jesus as Redeemer and Saviour.

strates this point:

of the shop windows were filled with Christmas presents and toys. As this gentleman passed along, he saw three little children standing before a shop window. It aroused his attention, and he wondered what it could mean. He went back, and found that the middle one was blind, she had never been able to see-and her two sisters were endeavoring to tell her how the things looked. The gentleman stood beside them for some time and listened; he said it was most interesting to hear them trying to describe the different articles to the blind child-they found

it a difficult task. "That is just my position to tell other men about Christ," I said, "I may talk about Him; and yet they see no beauty in Him that they should desire Him. But if they will only come to Him, He will open their eyes and reveal Himself to them in all His loveliness and grace."

cure Sets, also Brushes, Combs and Mirrors and Clocks, Nail Files, Lamps, Buffers, Perfume Bottles, Talcum Powder and punt, and as he drew near, he Boxes, Hair Receivers, etc. Our said, "Floid on and I will give thee a French Ivory is of best quality | lift." The Ghost (for such it was) had and made of heavy stock, suitable for engraving and can be initialed in any colour. Compare and when James spoke to him, he the quality and price and be convinced. R. H. TRAPNELL, LTD.

"Ghosts" and

Ghosts and phantom lights being so mers in a letter to a friend, "that I akin to each other, that I shall classify them as ghosts near and far off; or view of the gospel salvation as when I in other words, bold and shy ghosts. while others treat the subject lightly, and scorn the very mention of the word, notwithstanding the fact that icy hand on them, or the ghost of a departed friend, all dressed in dazzling whiteness, may loom up before them. Why then do they doubt, when their conscience makes cowards of them? To these sceptical ones. I merely refer them to Christ's ghostlike appearance to the two men on the road

up some title of our own. This leads to Emmaus (24th chapter St. Luke's of Shakespeare, in making the ghost of the King of Denmark talk to his tion of one class of Christians who son Hamlet, saying "you must avenge

their own hearts and their own lives, excitement, and men of the highest to slip his mooring, when the phanshadow of a title to the divine favor. Dr. Johnson, undertook to solve the

The shy ghost then, which is the "Light or Phantom Ship," keeps some me, and be ye saved, all the ends of considerable distance off, and like the shy child, hides itself from our view-

Some people who are mysteriously endowed with what is known as "the

The first ghost story which I re-

the real character and mission of in this town told me the story that he night after night, and the aggitation. Mr. Moody in one of his sermons late Bat Coleman's home and the late to the authorities at St. John's and tells the following incident that illu- John White's store, when a woman they to the Heart's Content Cable Co., whom he recognized, mysteriously ap-"A gentleman was walking down the peared at his side. He looked at her streets of a city some time before. It but did not speak. They walked about was near Christmas-time, and many one hundred yards together, when she

> walking past a house in this town drawn across her face. She said nowoman breathed her last a few min-

James, Joseph and Thomas, three Englishmen were walking around the foreshore of the head waters of Smith's Sound. Thomas and Joseph being two or three hundred yards ahead of James, when James looked a short distance ahead of his two friends and saw a man trying to push a punt off the shoals, to deep water. Presently, and to James' disgust, his two friends passed by the man who was striving to push his boat off and did not render any assistance. He called to them, saying "Why don't these give that feller a hand to get French Ivory Toilet and Mani- off his punt"? At James' call they looked around, but went on without giving any assistance. In a mirute or his shoulder against the stem of the punt, apparently pushing very hard, turned his face towards James, who

actually saw the ghosts eyes move.

punt and was just in the act of taking it hold by the thwart, when both man "Phantom Lights"! and punt vanished. This happened in broad daylight, and I think my readers will agree with me that this was indeed a very bold ghost, and James

> The two friends of James saw noconsidered by this man and his shipmates, to be the ghost of the S.S.

Trout River, Bonne Bay, tells the story that he was anchored on the fishing ground near Cape Gregory one night, when he saw a ship all Ghost," which took place in London lighted up, coming towards him, and in the year 1762, and caused much it came so near, that he ran forward tom ship passed close to him, and going at about fifty miles an hour. It midship, and in the midst of this great fire there were two men standing. He could see them quite plainly, and his discription of this diabolical ship

little harbor in Placentia Bay, of a sixth sight," are capable of seeing haunted house. The father and his many wonderful things which myriads two sons had occupied the house and fortunate or unfortunate (?) persons ther's burial a dreadful and mysterijust now, and shall attempt to enter- ous knocking began. They endured it tain my readers with a few "Ghost for some time and made every pos-Stories" as they present themselves, sible examination, but all to no purpose. The knocking continued and All Harbours have their traditional they had to leave the old house and ghost stories, but I think Trinity build a new one, and allowed the haunted house to drop down.

Perhaps the most modern mystery member hearing when I was a boy, of the spirit world is taking place here was that from an old man, known as in Trinity at the present time. About "Crusty Harry." A name which I think! the year 1916, a very brilliant light was attached to him because of his appeared a few miles off the narrows gruff manner. He repeatedly saw a of Trinity. At first it was thought to quent said: "Nazareth was no Athens full rigged ship going up High Street, be the light of an approaching ship. where philosophy breathed in the cir- and near the dwelling house of the In fact the Fort Point Lighthouse cumambient air; it had neither Porch late Wm. Kelson. Other people used Keeper was so sure of this light being nor Lyceum, not even a school of the to see a man without a head up near of the S.S. "Prospero," that he rowed Prophets. There is however God in Paddy Murphy's home. Also every five across the harbor in great haste to the heart of this Youth (Christ) that | years a great beast, which was known | be at the Public Wharf on her arrival, mightiest heart that ever beat, stirred as "the black bear," could be seen only to discover later that there was by the spirit of God, how it wrought rushing along the street at almost no approaching ship. This mysterious lightning speed, and rattling its "Light Story" became noised abroad, All these tributes are beautiful but chains which could be heard many and all the inhabitants of the Town they are insufficient. They lack the hundred yards off. Another ghost was became nervously interested and exgreat essential note—they fail to de- sometimes seen, which appeared as a cited, fearing that it was a German clare Jesus as the Saviour from Sin. man and had a head as large as a submarine attempting to cut the At-It takes Revelation, yea the Illumin- barrel and eyes as large as saucers. | lantic Cable or to attach the Town. A very honourable man in his day, Hundreds of people watched this light, was once walking the street near the became so rife that it was reported only to be assured that nobody was tampering with the Cable.

This set the minds of the Trinity people at rest, but still the "Mystery Light" appeared and is still appearing. Only a short time ago, a fisherman was on the fishing ground just where a woman lay dying, as she after dark, when he saw the light only passed the door, an icy cold hand was a few hundred yards ahead of his boat, but as he drew nearer to it, it vanthing of the circumstances then but ished, and thus the "mystery goes the strange coincidence is, the dying on." Some contend it is the headlight



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3RD PRIZE—\$5.00—MRS. HARRY GRANT,

21 Bond Street, City.

The Hon. Dr. Robinson and Mr. J. S. Currie, who kindly acted as judges, commented very favorably on the high merits of many of the entries received

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of a locomotive near Grate's Cove, see the Phantom Light, and be conothers contend it is the token of a vinced that "Ghosts and Phantom vessel which was lost with all hands Lights" are a reality. about the time the light first appeared, but certain it is, the light is plainly seen quite frequently and usually from 9 o'clock p.m. until 11 o'clock ested in this strange phenomena, we set. See them at TRAPNELL'S. advise them to come to Trinity and

W. WHITE. Trinity, Christmas, 1925.

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Cut Citron Peel, 1/2's. BORNEO CIGARS-1919 Crop. Boxes of 25 and 50, from \$10.50 per hundred to \$22.00 BUCKTROUTS DARVEL BAY—Boxes \$10.50 to \$15.00 per hundred.

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