

# REVOLUTIONIZED THE WORLD

## The Apparently Insignificant Event of That Birth in the Bethlehem Stable.

(Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Three, by Wm. Duff, of Toronto, at the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.)

A despatch from Chicago says: Rev. Frank De Witt Talmage preached from the following text: Luke ii, 12, "Lying in a manger."

How large is an average crib? "I suppose," you answer, "about four feet long and two feet wide. It is as large perhaps as an average manger at the end of a horse's stall, at which the four-legged animals munch their oats and hay after a long, tiresome day's work." Yes, my friend, you are right. Your definition is so completely right that in this sermon I am going to preach about a famous manger, which was once used for a cradle. I am going to talk about a stone manger, hewn out of the solid rock, in which nearly 2,000 years ago was laid a newborn babe. About this manger the wise men from the east and the shepherds from the surrounding hills gathered, and over it the angels sang the first lullaby in the chant of the Christmas song. This stone manger was the manger of Bethlehem of Judaea. It was the first earthly resting place of the Divine Child, who was the son of Mary the Virgin and was also the only begotten Son of the Father God.

The whole rendering of the verse of my text reads thus: "And this shall be for a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." The manger is a simplified and tender manifestation of the divine love. It is not difficult for the average uninspired man to think of Jehovah as a God of majesty, of power, of fiery passion, a God who can hold the seas in the palm of his hand and a God who can unsheathe the fiery swords of the lightning. Why, even the heathen in the darkest days of barbaric superstition were able to think of such gods as that! When the Euroclydeans were born in the Mediterranean archipelago and instantly sprang up as full grown giants and with their swiftly moving feet leaped from wave top to wave top and drenched their long locks and wide flowing robes with the white foam and out of a mere Satanic desire to destroy hurled the shipping upon the jagged rocks and covered the surrounding coasts with wreckage, it was a very easy matter for the ancients to picture a Neptune striking right and left with his trident and to call him god of the seas. When the mighty conquerors of the east made triumphal entry after entry into the city of Rome with their chariot wheels and with their legions loaded down with captured spoils, brought under the shadow of the scepter held in a Caesar's hand, it was not a very difficult matter for the Romans to build a great temple to Mars, the god of war. It was not a very difficult matter to rear this gigantic temple, even though thousands and hundreds of thousands of men and women had to be sacrificed at its shrine and though the walls of the temple had to be covered with the captured trophies. Even the Hebrews were and are ready to worship such a temporal king. Only the other day the chief rabbi of the west declared in a Chicago newspaper that his people were still expecting a Messiah who would come as a temporal conqueror to lead the Jews back again to Palestine. Then these modern Hebrew crusaders would again see Jerusalem restored in all its past grandeur, and there Jesus would reign with greater power than the famous King Solomon of old.

But though it was not difficult to think of God as a God of power and temporal conquest, it was difficult in the time that Jesus was born to think of the Father as a God of love and sympathy and mercy; a God who would deign to care for an individual human being; a God who wanted to creep into the human heart's affections, even as the sunbeams would creep into the heart and give new life to the plant. It was difficult, in one sense, for God to teach sinful men that he did not want to crush them, but to save them of their own free will. It was difficult for him to teach all men, both Jew and gentile, that Christ did not come as a Hebrew Christ, but as the world's Saviour. So, if we may use an imaginative description, God the Father might have spoken to Jesus Christ in a way something like this: "I will not allow thee, my only Son, to be born in a palace. I will not allow thee to enter the world as an earthly prince. Sinful men might then honor thee and fear thee, but they might not then take thee into their hearts and of their own accord love thee and give themselves to thee. I will send thee forth as a helpless babe. I will let thee be born in Bethlehem of Judaea, so helpless that the lowliest of the lowly will not have a more humble entry into the world than thou. Go forth, my Son, not only to atone for the sins of the world, but also to teach all sinful men that I am God the Father, the God of Love." Could the divine love have been manifested in a more simple way than by Christ's cradle being the manger of Bethlehem of Judaea?

THE LESSON OF THE NATIVITY. On Oct. 20, 1895, I was brought face to face with the true teachings of the manger Christ as never before. It was one of the most overwhelming days of my life. It happened in Bethlehem of Judaea. I was sitting in the Greek Catholic Church, which is supposed to have

been erected directly upon the identical spot where Jesus was born. In that hallow place I had read over and over again the account of the nativity until it seemed as though the walls of the eastern edifice were changing into a stable and the light which was burning upon the altar was a candlelight held in the carpenter Joseph's hand, and while I read the nativity account over and over I suddenly heard the soft whistlings of a chant. I listened and at first said: "It cannot be. No! I am listening only to the echoes of my own imagination." But the faint chanting began to grow louder. Then I saw a multitude of people coming through the church door as the shepherds must have once crowded through the entrance of the ancient stable. Then the procession came nearer and nearer and laid at my feet the body of a little child. As I sat there and looked at the face of the dead baby whose funeral was now taking place my heart went out in sympathy to the poor mother who was to be carried back to the time when the Divine Babe lay in that stable manger, shielded by the mother love, which is always a divine love, and standing by the Bethlehem manger, with the dead body of that village babe at my feet. I could realize, as you in the same surroundings could have realized, that God's love for all his children is a tender, pleading, yearning love, a divine love which "passeth all understanding" and which abides with us through life and beyond death.

The manger Christ was given as a human example for sinful men to follow this side of the grave. He came to prove that by the grace of God it is possible for a human being to overcome sin, he came to prove it, because Christ was born just as we are, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. He was tempted just as we are tempted. Therefore we must continually, by the Holy Spirit's power, strive to be like him or else we can be none of his.

### THE BIRTH OF A PRINCE.

The manger Christ emphasizes the fact that infinite results which may affect all the heavens and the earth—results which will startle the outmost circumferences of the universe as well as the great center can sometimes be directly traced to seemingly infinitesimal causes. When a prince or a princess, the child of a great king, is about to be born, especially if the prospective infant is to be the heir to the throne, a member of the cabinet awaits the arrival in one of the ante-rooms of the royal palace. The attendants are waiting to immediately thunder forth the news of the prince's birth from the gaping mouths of the great black cannon. The messengers have their steeds saddled and bridled, ready to speed away to announce the arrival to the different public officials. The telegraph wires thrill with joy as soon as the expected message is sent to the farthest parts of the royal domains. But no such joyful and national expectancy greeted the earthly birth of the Son of God. No messenger that night carried the news up to the Jerusalem palace of Bloody Herod the Great. No retinue of foreign ambassadors stood near to offer their congratulations to an earthly king. Jesus' birth from a worldly standpoint was an insignificant event. He was born in a stable. He was born in a Bethlehem khan. Mary the Virgin in the most solemn hour of a woman's life had no bed upon which to lie, no pillow, unless the manger, though rough coat of her noble though humble husband or a pile of straw pushed under her head by a sympathetic stableman; no female attendant, unless that woman attendant was the kind hearted hostler's wife, who had come in to aid her troubled sister. So our second birth may have been in the estimation of the world a seemingly insignificant event. But if we thereafter only make a right use of our lives their spiritual influence will affect all time and eternity. The news of our spiritual birth will be heralded all round the heavenly kingdom. It will set again the angels to chanting a new song. Our second birth will not only be heralded around heaven, but in the great judgment day when all nations shall be gathered before the throne the fact of that second birth will summon forth Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem of Judaea, our atoning Saviour to be our divine advocate.

### SOME INSIGNIFICANT EVENTS.

The manger Christ teaches that even in the darkest days of an earthly Christian's life he is never out of sight of an omnipotent Father's protecting care. As we climb the rocky heights upon which is builded the little village of Bethlehem and walk along the deserted streets in the midnight hour of the first Christmas day and see the little candlelight of stableman's lantern flitting about the pale face of Mary the Virgin we might at first think that God the Father had deserted and left alone Jesus the Divine Son. But did he? Could Jesus during any time of his earthly life truly say that the Divine Father had forsaken him, as he once in dying agony addressed upon the cross? Oh no. Weeks or perhaps months before the nativity God had prepared a place by which the infant Christ should be able to escape the murderous sword of the bloody tyrant, Herod. Weeks or perhaps months before Jesus was born the strange star appeared in the far east. That star even then had guided the three wise men over the mountains and through the villages and over the long, hot, thirsty desert that they should be able to kneel

at the manger. It was through the warnings of these three wise men that Jesus would be able to escape into Egypt. In the darkness of that Bethlehem night angel wings were spread over that humble stable, angel forms surrounded the virgin mother and angel voices greeted the newborn Monarch of the ages with a heavenly song. They sang so loud that the shepherds upon the hillsides fell down in a swoon. And so on in the darkest days of our lives, when we feel that we are forsaken by God and man, God's angels are watching us, God's eyes are seeing us, God's ear is hearing us, God's protecting love is all around us. We are no more forsaken by God than the manger of Bethlehem was celestially forsaken on the night that Jesus was born.

### THE GOD WHO LOVES.

The omnipresent God will not for one instant, even in the darkest of days, turn a deaf or an unheeding ear to the weakest and most helpless of all his children. One day the baby boy dismissed his father and mother was very sick. When their little girl was about to be put to bed on the night of the crisis of the disease she came to her father. Then, in her sweet, girlish way, she said: "Papa, won't you pray to God to-night that baby brother might get well? I am only a wee little bit of a girl, and God might not be willing to hear me pray, but God would always have time to listen to you pray, for you are a great, big, strong man." With that the sobbing father took his little girl into his arms as he said: "Oh, my darling, God will have time to hear you pray for your baby brother. If you will pray, my darling, for your little brother, though you are a little bit of a girl, God, if necessary, will turn to the angels and say: 'Angels, stop that singing. Stop that singing, right away. For way down on earth there is a wee little bit of a girl who is praying for her baby brother, and I want to listen to her.' And as the Christian father spoke to his little girl I say to you, in this Christmas sermon, no matter, O man or woman, how humbly helpless you may be; no matter how dark your days may seem to be, God is always ready to listen to your cry if you will only call upon Him for help. God will always respond to prayer, with his angels, even as his guardian angels and the star of the east hovered over the manger on the night that Jesus was born.

## THE S. S. LESSON.

### INTERNATIONAL LESSON, JAN. 11.

Text of the Lesson, Phil. iv, 1-13. Golden Text, Phil. iv, 4.

1-3. Therefore, my brethren, dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

The lesson to-day is entitled "Christian Living," and we are asked to read the whole epistle, which is always a good thing to do with an epistle or any book in the Bible. It would be well to read the epistle through many times till we feel that we have in some measure grasped it and that it has grasped us. At this present time as I write these notes we are endeavoring in 33 Bible classes to memorize the whole epistle, taking about three verses each week, for we believe and desire to obey Col. iii, 16; Matt. iv, 4; Ps. cxi, 11; Jer. xv, 16; Job xxiii, 12, etc. I know of no way to stand fast in the Lord or in the grace of God (Rom. v, 2) except by being filled with His word and His Spirit (John vi, 63).

4, 5. Rejoice in the Lord always. And again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

A Christian is one who is in Christ, and unless one is really in Christ and Christ in him, though he may be a church member, baptized, confirmed, etc., and as good morally and religiously as a Nicodemus or a Saul of Tarsus, he is not a Christian. The third chapter of this epistle teaches this or it is more concisely stated in I. John v, 12. I emphasize this because one must first be a Christian in order to live a Christian life, and he is able to say, "To me to live is Christ" (I. Cor. vi, 19). When our eyes are opened to see that apart from Christ we are only lost and helpless sinners, but in Him we are indeed citizens of heaven and our names written there and that He who began the work in us will finish it (Phil. 20, 21; iv, 3; i, 6), then he will be apt to rejoice in the Lord always.

6, 7. Be careful for nothing. . . . And the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Be sure to memorize every word of these two verses and put them in practice and thus enjoy this wonderful peace of God. As one has said, careful for nothing, prayerful for everything, thankful for anything. With Rom. viii, 32, and Matt. vi, 33, in our hearts how can we do otherwise than as here commanded if we in any sense believe God, and yet how few believers seem to know in their daily life this beautiful peace of God? Praying with God through the blood of Christ is the portion of every Christian, whether realized or not, but this peace of God is only

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the portion of those who tell Him everything that concerns them, commit all details of their life to Him in prayer and leave all with Him in obedience to and firmly believing Ps. xxxvii, 4, 5, 7; Prov. iii, 5, 6.

8, 9. Those things which ye have both learned and received and heard and seen in me, do, and the God of peace shall be with you. The things true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report had all by the grace of God been seen in Paul, so that he could say as in chapter iii, 17, "Ye have us for an example, but there is only one perfect example, and we are taught to run with patience, looking unto Jesus" (Heb. xii, 1, 2), to see Jesus only and consider Him (Mark ix, 8; Heb. iii, 1; xii, 3), for in Him alone all things were seen in perfection, and high as the standard may seem, God desires nothing else than the life of Jesus made manifest in our mortal flesh (I. Cor. iv, 10, 11).

10-12. I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

This is another beautiful phase of the Christian life—rejoicing in the Lord greatly, whether full or hungry, abounding or in want. The prophet Habakkuk had learned the secret, for he could say, "Though vine, olive, fig tree, flocks and herds are fail, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will joy in the God of my salvation" (Hab. iii, 17, 18). If we have confidence in God as our Father, we must believe that he is always doing His best for us and He will not suffer us to hunger nor to lack anything we need unless to suffer a little is the very best and only way to prepare us for the glory. He is preparing for us. He suffered Israel to hunger and also His own dear Son (Deut. viii, 2, 3; Matt. xxi, 18), but in the former it was to prove them to do them good, and in the latter it was that He might be a high priest who could fully sympathize with His people (Heb. ii, 10, 17, 18; iv, 15, 16).

13. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

How can this life be lived? Never by our efforts of ours, nor by any struggling or trying on our part, but only by yielding ourselves to God (Rom. vi, 13) that He who manifested Himself in Christ may manifest something of the same life in us who are redeemed by His precious blood. Before we can know the power of His resurrection (iii, 10) we must know what it means to have been crucified with Him, for then only can we say, "I live, yet not I, but Christ, liveth in me" (Gal. ii, 20). In Christ by virtue of His finished work we have a standing before God which is perfect (Phil. iii, 15; Heb. x, 10, 14); but as to our daily life here before men we are to be ever pressing on to perfection, aiming to apprehend that for which Christ has apprehended us (iii, 12, 14), relying upon Him to work in us both to will and to die of His good pleasure (ii, 13). The rest of this chapter must be included in our meditation, but especially verse 19, which so fully covers all we can ever need on this side of the kingdom.

### STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, Lucas County.

FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHENEY & CO., doing business in and for Toledo, Ohio, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRH that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE. Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1896.

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### EAST ASPECTS FOR AETS.

Port Darwin, in South Australia, boasts some of the most remarkable ants' nests in the world. They are known as "magnetic" nests, for the simple reason that they are, without exception, built in due north and south direction. Consequently a traveler journeying through the district in which they abound may readily direct his course by their aid. No living man knows why these tiny architects build them in this way. They are merely one out of the many marvels of the great land "down under" which, however, probable that instinct leads these tiny creatures to so construct their dwellings that the fierce noontide sun shall have the least possible effect upon their interiors.

### HIS ONLY CHANCE.

One day, a few years ago, Mr. O'Brien, a land-agent in the West of Ireland, met a countryman, and, having heard of his marriage, saluted him with: "Well, Pat, so you have taken to yourself a wife?" "Yes, yer honor," said Pat, touching his hat. "I have." Mr. O'Brien, looking comically at him, said: "Well, here I am, and I feel very lonely sometimes, these tiny creatures to so construct their dwellings that the fierce noontide sun shall have the least possible effect upon their interiors."

Another disadvantage of Mars is that it is so much less a good deal than Earth. Nor is it likely that airships can be used, as the Martian atmosphere is extremely thin. In fact, a human being on Mars would probably suffocate unless he were provided with oxygen cylinders like those balloons use.

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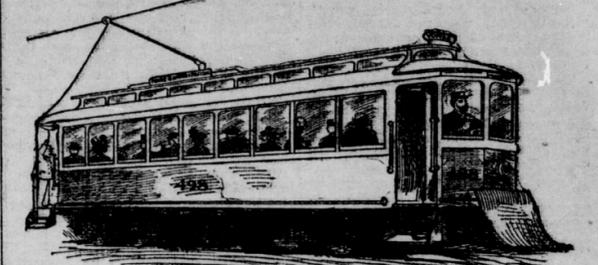
DARKNESS OF THE NIGHTS. True, Mars has two moons to our one, but they are both so absurdly small that they cannot be of much use to illuminate the Martian nights. Neither Mercury nor Venus has any moons at all.

The changes in the Martian climate are much more severe than in our own. The South Polar icecap of Mars at the end of May has been noticed to be as much as 1,200 miles

# THRILLING EXPERIENCE

Of Motorman Walden, in the employ of TORONTO STREET RAILWAY COMPANY.

DO NOT WANT TO GIVE UP WORK BUT WAS FORCED TO DO SO—TELLS HOW FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS HE HOVERED BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH, TREATED BY THE BEST PHYSICIANS IN TORONTO AND HIS CASE PRONOUNCED SO SERIOUS THAT HE WAS ADVISED, AS A LAST RESORT, TO USE THE DR. SLOCUM TREATMENT—IS NOW IN GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSED THE DAY HE HEARD OF THIS MARVELLOUS REMEDY.



Mr. Alfred Walden, 7 Cornwall St., Toronto, who has been in the employ of the Street Railway Company for a number of years as motorman, informs us that he had an attack of the grippe, followed by typhoid fever, and after many weeks of suffering it resulted in a complication of throat and lung troubles. During this illness he was under the care of one of the best physicians in this city, who pronounced it a very serious case and advised him to stop work, which he was finally compelled to do. Mr. Walden heard about the Dr. Slocum Remedies and commenced their use after using them but for a few weeks he noticed a great improvement.

After using this valuable treatment for some little time, the cough stopped, pain in left lung ceased, appetite improved and night sweats were checked; and in about three months he was able to go back to work, feeling as well as ever.

When interviewed, Mr. Walden seemed to be in the best of spirits and expressed himself in the most grateful terms, as he considers himself completely cured and in the enjoyment of good health.

What the Dr. Slocum Remedies have done for Mr. Walden has also been accomplished in thousands of other hopeless cases, which testimonials we have on file.

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- Do your lungs pain you?
- Is your throat sore and inflamed?
- Do you spit up phlegm?
- Does your head ache?
- Is your appetite bad?
- Are your lungs delicate?
- Are you losing flesh?
- Are you pale and thin?
- Do you lack stamina?

These symptoms are proof that you have in your body the seeds of the most dangerous malady that has ever devastated the earth—consumption.

You are invited to test what this system will do for you, if you are sick, by writing for a

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## RECORDS OF THE EARTH

### SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OUR PLANET.

If you put down the figure 6, and add after it twenty-one noughts, you have the approximate weight in tons of the world we live in. In proportion to size there is only one planet that is heavier than the Earth—that is little Mercury. Taking the density of the earth as 1, that of Mercury is 1.26. No other member of the solar system, not even the Sun itself, can compare with our globe in weight. Jupiter, the largest of all the planets, is 1,400 times as big as the Earth, but only

300 TIMES AS HEAVY. Mercury holds the two records for being heaviest bulk for bulk of all the planets, and of being nearest the Sun. But in all other respects the earth beats it. Mercury is very small—only three times as big as the sphere, and therefore equally little water. Worse than all, it seems fairly certain that it no longer revolves on its axis like our planet, but resembles the Moon in turning one face always towards the Sun.

The nearest of all the planets to ourselves is not, as is usually imagined, Mars, but Venus. We can see the atmosphere of Venus during its occasional transits across the Sun's disc. Venus also resembles the Earth very nearly in size and weight.

Yet Venus must be a very poor place to live in compared with our world. Its axis is tilted in a most surprising fashion, with results that can hardly be pleasant for her inhabitants. The Arctic regions must be very considerable in extent, and there a blazing day of half a year must be succeeded by a night of unparalleled cold of the same length. In her tropical regions,

COLD AND HEAT must also succeed one another with startling suddenness. Her temperate zones must suffer from similarly severe changes, making a climate which no human being could withstand.

Mars is nearly fifty million miles further from the Sun than ourselves, yet it is so much less a good deal than we that we can tell a great deal more about that planet's shape and make than about any other members of the solar system. And the more we learn the more certain we feel that our next neighbor on the outside cannot compare with the Earth. Here out of one hundred square miles seventy-two are water and twenty-eight are land. In Mars water is so scarce that the greatest care. Martians who want to travel cannot take ship. They must journey overland. Nor is it likely that airships can be used, as the Martian atmosphere is extremely thin. In fact, a human being on Mars would probably suffocate unless he were provided with oxygen cylinders like those balloons use.

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### MOVEMENT OF THE CLOUDS.

Some astronomers have noticed a deep coppery-red appear through the torn masses of the Jovian clouds, and argue from this that Jupiter is still in the same condition, which this Earth passed through 300,000,000 years ago—a mass of incandescent material covered with an envelope of watery vapour. But no one knows for certain. Jupiter beats us in the matter of moons. It has four. One appears to the people of Jupiter rather bigger than our Moon, the next two are about half as large, and the fourth quite small. But as they shine only with reflected sunlight, all four together could give only one-sixteenth as much light as our own Moon. As a matter of fact they are never all visible at the same time. The last and, from a human point of view, the chief advantage of a resident in Jupiter is that a ten-stone man transported to that planet would find that he weighed something over twenty-five stone, and would, therefore, be unable to do much more than crawl.

Great as are the Earth's advantages over Jupiter, Saturn suffers still more in comparison. It is practically certain that Saturn is destitute of animal life. It is no less than 745 times as big as this Earth, and yet weighs only ninety times as much. It is, indeed, only three fifths as heavy as its bulk of water. Anyone moving to Saturn, therefore, from this Earth would be

UNABLE TO KEEP AFOAT. even were he the best of swimmers. Saturn must, indeed, be in a very liquid condition, for astronomers watching this planet have often noticed that it constantly changes shape. One side of it will bulge out as much as four or five hundred miles. We on this Earth get just ninety times as much heat and light as Saturn has from the sun, and all Saturn's moons, eight in number, cannot make up for the deficiency, for their combined light is but one-sixteenth that of our satellite.

As for Uranus and Neptune, they are so far away that our knowledge of them is limited. Uranus must indeed be a dreary place. Its year is eighty-four of our years. Its axis slopes very much, and its winters, at least forty-two years long, must be appalling. At the height of its summer the Sun looks but one-third-hundred-and-fiftieth as big as it appears to us. Neptune, in number, from the centre of the universe that to it the sun appears merely as a star does to us.